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Trump moves to end asylum protections for Central Americans

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'Lion King' voice work no laughing matter for Keegan-Michael Key

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Pernell Whitaker, ex-champ, is fatally struck by car in Va.

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VA eliminated more than 208K health care applications this year » Page 4

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Experts say US woefully unprepared for cyberwarfare

By JOHN M. DONNELLY
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — War in cyberspace is fully on, and the U.S. is losing it, according to about two dozen national security experts.

The U.S. military is increasingly adept at mounting cyberattacks in places like Russia and Iran, but America's computers are almost completely defenseless. Without strong protections, offensive attacks can be invitations for disaster instead of deterrents.

"I believe we are in a declared cyberwar. It is aimed at the whole of society and the state. I believe we are losing that war."

Michael Bayer
Pentagon adviser

"I believe we are in a declared cyberwar,"

said Michael Bayer, a long-time Pentagon adviser who led a recent review of Navy cybersecurity.

"It is aimed at the whole of society and the state. I believe we are losing that war."

Whether the attack is a hack of a Pentagon

contractor or misinformation spread on social media, U.S. adversaries are increasingly successful in that ethereal battleground. U.S. leaders are only slowly realizing how much the rules have changed, and the required focus, leadership and strategic thinking remain woefully wanting, critics charge.

"While we have made progress, it would be fair to say we have a long way to go," said South Dakota Republican Sen. Mike Rounds, who chairs the Senate Armed Services Cybersecurity Subcommittee.

The military's torpid response has been caused by bureaucratic

SEE UNPREPARED ON PAGE 6



Top: An Australian Army soldier works atop an armored vehicle at Camp Rockhampton in eastern Australia during the Talisman Sabre exercise Sunday.

Above: Australian soldiers sort their tactical gear before a trip to Shoalwater Bay Training Area on Sunday.

PHOTOS BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes

Quiet Australian town buzzing over largest Talisman Sabre exercise yet

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

ROCKHAMPTON, Australia — Ten cars lined up Sunday outside Rockhampton Airport, their occupants eager to catch a glimpse of the U.S. and Australian military helicopters taking off for Talisman Sabre exercises in nearby Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

The airport is just across the street from the Australian Defence Force's Camp Rockhampton, which this month is the busiest it's been since the last Talisman Sabre two years ago. What otherwise would be a simple, fenced-in campground in the town of 80,000 springs to life for the biennial event.

Thousands of troops have moved through the camp during the past month, readying their equipment and learning their training scenarios before heading off into the "bush," the forested, rural area of eastern Australia. This year's version of the exercise — with troops both foreign and domestic — is the largest yet.

SEE EXERCISE ON PAGE 2

MILITARY

Exercise: Precautions taken to protect parks, Great Barrier Reef

FROM FRONT PAGE

Across the base, different stations are assembled. In one, incoming servicemembers go through Talisman Sabre orientation, including a special safety briefing on the dangerous Australian wildlife found in the training grounds.

In another, Australian soldiers sort and pack their gear, rations and other necessities while American troops make final adjustments before heading out. In the middle of the base stands a large, open-air mess hall that can seat 1,000 people at a time.

Aside from packing and organizing, another major preexercise operation that happens at "Camp Rocky" — as the locals call it — is specific to the nature of the training area. Before any vehicles can leave for Shoalwater Bay, they must be washed thoroughly in a process called "weeds and seeds" to prevent contamination of the environment, said Australian army Maj. Jessica Luciani, who commands the theater gateway.

Shoalwater Bay is in a conservation zone close to national parks and the Great Barrier Reef. That means precautions are taken — especially with foreign vehicles — to guard against cross-contaminating or otherwise damaging the area's plant life.

"It's a large, beautiful area. We do hardship to it during Talisman Sabre, so this is our effort to minimize it," Luciani said. "It does require a bit of sensitivity to it."

Even though Talisman Sabre lasts just a few weeks every other year, the Australian Defence Force invests heavily in the operation.

"It's a very quiet base outside

this exercise," Luciani said. "A lot of the infrastructure here was built specifically for this exercise."

Maj. Lucas McKennariery, a combat team commander with the Australian army's 4th Brigade, said the camp has come a long way since the exercise's early years, when he'd sleep on the ground next to his hulking Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle. Now, troops sleep in large 12-person tents in neat rows atop mounds of specially poured concrete.

"This has been set up to support more forces (for Talisman Sabre)," McKennariery said. "It has been growing to keep up with the size of the exercise."

McKennariery first came to Rockhampton for Talisman Sabre in 2007. Most of the camp infrastructure was designed specifically to support the massive biennial event that just keeps growing.

What originated as a bilateral exercise between the United States and Australia this year includes Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, with delegations from India and South Korea observing.

Australian army reserves trooper Kon Thon, 19, a full-time university student, said he was eager to work with other nations' militaries to see what the servicemembers can learn from each other.

Even before most of the action had begun, he said he was already amazed by working around his American counterparts and impressed with their equipment.

"This is my first time seeing them out. I drove past their vehicles and I'm just getting my head



PHOTOS BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes

Royal Australian Army soldiers taking part in the Talisman Sabre exercise sort their gear before packing their tactical vehicles for a trip to the Shoalwater Bay Training Area on Sunday.

around what is possible," Thon said. "We're used to our systems, but could [the U.S. systems] work better for us?"

Soon, Camp Rockhampton will calm down again as most of the troops enter the field. The height of Talisman Sabre activities begin this week with amphibious beach landings and other activities in Shoalwater Bay. The troops will be back again for a short time before they disperse to their home states and countries.

Then, the small camp will return to its mostly quiet nature until Talisman Sabre 2021.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos



An Australian soldier washes a tactical vehicle during "weeds and seeds" decontamination at Camp Rockhampton in eastern Australia during the drills.

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MILITARY

Lakenheath begins preparing for F-35A permanent campus

By CHRISTOPHER DENNIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — A \$205 million construction project to prepare RAF Lakenheath for the arrival of two squadrons of U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II fighter jets in 2021 officially got underway Monday.

The commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe-U.S. Air Forces Africa, Gen. Jeffrey Harrigian, and other dignitaries plunged shovels into dirt at what will become the first permanent site for U.S. F-35s in Europe.

U.K. firms Kier and Volker-Fitzpatrick will build a flight simulator facility, maintenance unit, hangars and storage units at the site in time for the arrival of 48 F-35As in November 2021. The Royal Air Force currently has nine F-35As at RAF Mar-

ham, about 25 miles north of Lakenheath.

"This will be a great opportunity to reinforce together how we will train, execute and operate on a daily basis and allow us to deepen what is a critically important relationship," Harrigian said at the groundbreaking.

The project is the first in a broad program to support Air Force operations in the U.K. A further \$1 billion is expected to be invested in the program over the next seven to 10 years, said the Defense Infrastructure Organization, which last year awarded the contract for the F-35 campus. "The project team is in good shape — we are on schedule for completion in 2021," Kier's managing director of aviation and defense, James Hindes, was quoted as saying by The Construction Index, an industry website.

The completed campus will



CHRISTOPHER DENNIS/Stars and Stripes

An F-15E Strike Eagle taxis by construction for F-35 Lightning II aircraft facilities at RAF Lakenheath, England, on Monday.

host about 1,200 U.S. airmen. Currently, more than 9,100 U.S. servicemembers are based in the U.K., according to Pentagon data.

Recent problems with engine delivery of the F-35A are not expected to delay the arrival of America's newest fighter jet at Lakenheath, a 48th Fighter Wing spokeswoman said Monday.

Of the 81 engines that were

delivered in 2018, 86% were late, according to a Government Accountability Office report in April. That was up from 48% that were not delivered on time the previous year, when fewer engines were delivered.

The delays were due in part to an increase in the "average number of quality issues per engine" — 941 in 2018 compared with 777

a year earlier, the report said. United Technologies' Pratt and Whitney unit, the only company to make the engines, is under a corrective action request from the Defense Contract Management Agency for "poor delivery performance," according to a July report by Bloomberg News.

dennis.christopher@stripes.com
Twitter: @chrisdennis

New marksman rifles expected to be in Army hands next year

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Army has long sought to equip its marksmen with a more maneuverable precision rifle. The wait could be over as soon as next year.

Heckler and Koch Defense Inc., the German firearms manufacturing company, plans to deliver between 5,000 and 6,000 new Squad Designated Marksman Rifles in early 2020, the company said in a statement.

"The HK SDMR system will add much-needed capabilities to virtually every squad in the Army," HK&USA Chief Operating Officer Michael Holley said, according to the statement Friday. "We are honored by this opportunity."

The rifle, a modified 7.62 mm NATO G28, will be manufactured in Oberndorf, Germany, which is about an hour southwest of U.S.

European Command headquarters in Stuttgart.

The weapons will start being delivered next year to the HK&USA facility in Columbus, Ga., the statement said.

The G28 is a military version of the civilian semiautomatic M308 competition rifle, which "provides a maximum effective range and a high first round hit probability up to 600 meters (and) will also allow suppressive fire against man-sized targets up to 800 meters," according to the HK&K website.

The need for such a rifle was identified in the Army 2015 Small Arms Capabilities-Based Assessment, which stated that "squads must have an organic, precision-fire capability to engage select personnel targets from zero to 600 meters."

In May 2017, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley told Sen-

ate Armed Services Committee members that the service's current 5.56 mm M855A1 Enhanced Performance Round would not be able to punch through advanced armor plates.

The M855A1 is optimized for use in weapons such as the M4 Carbine and M249 Squad Automatic Weapon.

Since then, the Army has tested several variants of precision rifles to fill that gap.

The new 7.62 mm squad-designated marksman rifles would "give infantry and other close-combat units a better chance of penetrating enemy body armor," the HK&K statement said.

However, the weapon may be a short-term solution. The Army is also developing the "Next Generation Squad Weapon," or NGSW, which fires a 6.8 mm bullet at high velocities and at long range, officials have said.

The NGSW, a replacement for



BRIAN MICHELIC/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division soldier fires the newly developed Squad Designated Marksman Rifle in January at Fort Bliss, Texas.

both the M4 and the M249, is slated to be fielded by 2022. The weapon's higher chamber pressures are expected to result in better trajectory and effect on

target, as well as the improved ability to penetrate body armor at longer ranges.

egnash.martin@stripes.com
Twitter: @Marty_Stripes

Japan Coast Guard rescues another US servicemember at sea off Okinawa

By AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — For the second time in a month, a Japan Coast Guard helicopter rescued a U.S. servicemember swept out to sea Sunday at a popular but often dangerous swimming and diving spot known as Mermaid Grotto.

Three U.S. servicemembers were pulled away from shore by

a rip tide, according to a 2:20 p.m. emergency call by another servicemember, said Takeru Kamisato, a spokesman for Japan's 11th Regional Coast Guard in Naha.

"Two made it back on their own, but one got left behind," he said.

A helicopter rescued the servicemember and took him to the coast guard base station in Naha. "The servicemember wasn't hurt," Kamisato said.

He did not identify the three servicemembers. A U.S. military spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for further information.

A high-wave warning was in effect across the Okinawa main island, with strong southwest winds reaching close to 21 knots Sunday.

Mermaid Grotto, also known as Apogama, seems like a family friendly beach with a cave and

tide pool at low tide; however, it gets rough quickly when the wind shifts to the north or west, and a rip current can occur when the tide is going out or coming in.

A sign posted at the entrance to Apogama, written in English and Japanese, warns visitors of the hazardous and unpredictable water conditions and recommends water-related activities be conducted at a safer location on the island.

On June 15, a group of four servicemembers was swept out to sea at the same site. A Marine in the group — rescued by a Japan Coast Guard helicopter — suffered minor injuries.

In March, a Japanese diver died near Mermaid Grotto. A U.S. sailor died in a diving mishap there in 2016.

ichihashi.aya@stripes.com
Twitter: @Ayaiichihashi

MILITARY



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

A portrait of Caesar Flores, who is serving in the Air Force in Texas, is displayed at the Flores family home in Goleta, Calif. His mother, Juana Maria Flores, was deported and now lives in Tijuana, Mexico.

Airman's deported mother inspires measure to protect 'patriot parents'

By BRITTNY MEJIA
Los Angeles Times

GOLETA, Calif. — Every day, Caesar Flores, 22, a senior airman in the U.S. Air Force, thinks about his mother.

She supported his decision to enlist at 19 and was there to cheer him on when he graduated from basic training in September 2016.

Now, as he goes about his day-to-day work as a medical technician, his mind is weighed down by the fact that Juana Maria Flores, who was in the country illegally, won't be around to celebrate other milestones.

The cause was a fateful decision Flores made decades ago: to leave California to visit her ailing mother in Mexico. She was arrested when she tried to cross back into the U.S. illegally.

In April, 20 years later, she faced a choice: Get into a van with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to be deported or leave on her own. She chose to self-deport.

Inspired by the deportation of the airman's mother, U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal, D-Calif., proposed a bill that aims to protect "patriot parents." It is unclear how likely it is to pass. A bill to protect "patriot" spouses was reintroduced this year after stalling in the House last year.

All-or-nothing battle

Loud support for the military has united Republicans and Democrats in the past. But under the Trump administration, illegal immigration — and even some legal migration — has become an all-or-nothing battle, with little room for compromise by either side. Even on issues related to military service. This is especially the case at the onset of a presiden-

tial campaign in which fighting illegal immigration will be a cornerstone of Trump's pitch for reelection.

Months have passed since Juana Flores' return to Mexico, but activists, lawyers and retired judges have vowed to fight to bring her back. The group successfully lobbied two city councils, in Santa Barbara and Goleta, to pass resolutions in support of returning her home and pushed for legislation that would help parents of military members like Flores to adjust their status without having to leave the country.

"What Republican can say, 'I don't want to help our servicemembers because I'm more afraid of a 56-year-old woman because she's not a U.S. citizen,'" said Kraig Rice, an immigration attorney involved in the effort to bring Flores back. "How do you justify that that military servicemember doesn't deserve our absolute dedication and support?"

A recent pattern

In the last few years, attorneys have cited a pattern under the Trump administration of making it more difficult for foreign-born people to enlist in the military and become U.S. citizens through their service. More recently, there have been reports of a potential scaling back of "parole in place," a program that protects undocumented family members of active-duty troops.

"Parole in place is a mechanism to amnesty illegal aliens without a vote of Congress," said Mark Krikorian, the executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which supports tighter controls on immigration. "The previous administration used it simply

as a way to amnesty whichever sympathetic group of illegal immigrants got their attention."

But some question the fairness of punishing those who volunteer to serve the country. "We've always had this strong tradition in America of taking care of the troops," said Margaret Stock, an immigration attorney and retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. "Now they're sending a message that, 'We don't care if you're putting your life on the line for the U.S. We're not going to take care of you.'"

Program review

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services confirmed it is reviewing the categorical use of parole. If the parole in place program were to end, many families could find themselves in the same position as Flores.

American Families United, a national immigration advocacy group, estimated that as many as 11,800 military members are dealing with a spouse or family member who is facing deportation.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement said the agency is unable to provide a breakdown of removals of people who have a familial relationship with servicemembers so it is unclear how often it has happened. In a case last fall, the spouse of a Marine veteran left for Mexico after a lengthy battle to stop her deportation.

"It used to be that [the Department of Homeland Security] would knock themselves out and do things for military families, and now they're more likely to be put in deportation proceedings (and) less likely to be granted any military-related benefits," Stock said.

VA abandons over 208K health care applications in '19

By JEREMY REDMON
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

An arm of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Atlanta eliminated 208,272 applications from across the country for health care early this year amid efforts to shrink a massive backlog of requests, saying they were missing signatures or information about military service and income, according to records reviewed by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Veterans groups say the VA should have done more to communicate with the veterans before closing their applications, some of which date to 1998. Troops face additional challenges in applying for VA health care as they grapple with reentry into civilian life, change addresses following overseas deployments and suffer from combat stress, they said.

In the middle of the controversy is the VA's Health Eligibility Center, the Atlanta office that oversees the process by which veterans seek access to the VA medical system and its parent agency have come under intense scrutiny in recent years for mismanagement and delays in providing medical care, presenting a thorny challenge for the administration of President Donald Trump, who focused on veterans' care during his presidential campaign.

As of April, 8.8 million veterans were enrolled in the VA's health care system, the agency's records show. The VA said it ended 395,417 people in its health care system and rejected 98,997 in the fiscal year ending in September. Its backlog of pending applications totaled 317,157 in April, down from a high of 886,045 last year, according to records the VA sent the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

That current backlog is still "way too high," said Jeremy Butler, CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, a New York-based advocacy group. He suggested additional collaboration between the VA and veteran service groups could shrink it more.

"Something is not quite working right if we are not getting that number lower than it is," he said. "We need to be working together to get that number down."

Butler joined Adrian Atizado, deputy national legislative director for Disabled American Veterans, a nonprofit charity based in Kentucky, in criticizing the VA's efforts to reach the veterans before rejecting and closing their 208,272 applications.

The VA sent out one rejection letter to each of those applicants in 2016. In 2017, a bipartisan group

of federal lawmakers — including Georgia Sen. Johnny Isakson, a Republican — urged the VA to send the applicants an additional letter clarifying what missing information they needed to turn in. The lawmakers were responding to allegations that a coding error caused the VA to send veterans incorrect letters about what they still needed to submit.

The VA said it opted against sending an additional letter after its Office of Inspector General determined there was no such error and that the letters it sent in 2016 were appropriate and complied with federal law.

Isakson's spokeswoman said the VA took his recommendation to have the inspector general review the issue and then briefed the senator's committee

“Something is not quite working right if we are not getting that number lower than it is.”

Jeremy Butler
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

“When we hear about the VA not taking a more thoughtful approach to a situation like this — when they only send one letter because they have an incomplete application — I think we all should be expecting our government and this administration to do better by our veterans,” he said.

The VA said veterans may reapply for health care. The agency said it is now striving to contact people about incomplete applications up to six times each with phone calls and letters. Its Health Eligibility Center in Atlanta, meanwhile, has added 115 employees since July 2016.

The 208,272 eliminated cases didn't receive such treatment, though. That also has drawn renewed criticism from Scott Davis, a VA employee and whistleblower who testified before Congress in 2014 about problems at the VA's Health Eligibility Center.

"This purge has the dual effect of letting the VA avoid the work of processing the applications and absolving the agency of any responsibility for veterans' delayed access to health and disability benefits," Davis wrote in an article for the Washington Examiner in May.

MILITARY/WAR

Pentagon to get unprecedented 3rd acting chief

By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After months of delay, President Donald Trump was expected Monday to ask the Senate to confirm Mark Esper as the successor to former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, whose resignation opened an unprecedented period of senior level instability at the Pentagon.

Esper's nomination has been in the works for weeks, and he is already serving as the acting secretary.

In a twist, he would have to step aside from his temporary post leading the Pentagon while the Senate considers his nomination for the permanent job.

A third fill-in will be named, this time Richard Spencer, who has served as the civilian leader of the Navy since August 2017.

His tenure as acting secretary is expected to be brief. Esper is expected to be confirmed

as early as Thursday and then sworn in as the permanent secretary. Spencer would then return to the Navy.

The Republican-led Senate is expected to hold a confirmation hearing for Esper on Tuesday.

Esper took over as acting secretary in June when Pat Shanahan abruptly quit after having served as acting secretary since Mattis departed.

Prior to the Trump administration, only twice before has the Defense Department been led by an acting secretary — most recently in 1989 — and never has it had more than one in a single year.

The lack of stable leadership atop the Pentagon has raised questions in Congress at a time of heightened tensions with Iran and continued U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Syria.

Mattis resigned after two years in the job after a series of policy

disagreements with Trump, clashing with Trump's since-rescinded decision to pull all U.S. troops out of Syria. When Mattis left, Shanahan moved up from being deputy defense secretary, but Trump never nominated Shanahan for the top spot.



Esper

There also is no Senate-confirmed deputy secretary of defense or civilian leader of the Air Force. The vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Paul Selva, is scheduled to retire July 31, and his nominated successor, Gen. John Hyten, has yet to be scheduled for a Senate confirmation hearing.

A military official has accused Hyten of sexual misconduct.

An investigation found insufficient evidence to charge Hyten, but some members of Congress have raised questions about that process.

It's unclear whether Hyten's nomination will proceed.

Esper, who has been the civilian leader of the Army since November 2017, has a wide range of experience with defense issues, including years on Capitol Hill. More recently he was a lobbyist for Raytheon Co., which is a lot of business with the Pentagon.

Esper's former work with Raytheon is likely to come up at his Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Tuesday. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination and a member of the committee, has raised questions about Esper's lobbying background.

Warren laid out her concerns in a four-page letter obtained

by Bloomberg News. While offering some praise for the Army secretary, who has been serving as acting defense chief, Warren said a "cordial" meeting last week proved disappointing, Bloomberg reported.

"I am extremely disappointed by your unwillingness to commit to take the steps needed to clear any ethics cloud related to your former lobbying work for Raytheon," she wrote, according to Bloomberg. "If confirmed as defense secretary, your potential conflicts would raise significant questions about whether the Department of Defense's contracting decisions would favor Raytheon."

She said "you refused to commit to extend" a two-year period for recusal from "participating personally and substantially" in "any particular matter involving Raytheon" that will expire in November, Bloomberg reported.

Turkey says it hopes to co-produce high-tech weapons with Russia

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey hopes to co-produce high-tech weaponry systems with Russia in the future, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, further defying its NATO ally the United States, which has warned the country of possible sanctions over its purchase of a Russian-made missile defense system.

The Turkish leader made the comments Monday, hours after two more Russian cargo planes landed in Turkey to deliver parts of the Russian-made S-400 missile system that Ankara is acquiring from Russia despite strong U.S. objections.

"They said, 'They can't buy them.' They said, 'They can't deploy them anywhere.' They said, 'It's not right to buy them,' and as of today, the eighth plane has arrived and has started to unload its contents," said Erdogan, adding that the system would be fully deployed in less than a year.

"God willing, in April 2020 we'll bring [the deployment] to an end, and with that, we'll be

among the limited number of countries in the world in terms of air defense systems," he said. "Now the goal is joint production with Russia."

Earlier, the Turkish Defense Ministry said two more Russian cargo planes landed at the Murted Air Base near the capital, Ankara, bringing the Russian-made S-400 systems' components for the fourth day running. They were the eighth and ninth planes to land at Murted since Friday.

The U.S. has repeatedly warned Turkey that it will impose sanctions on the NATO-member country and exclude it from the F-35 stealth fighter jet program if Ankara doesn't drop its S-400 purchase.

Washington says the Russian S-400s are incompatible with NATO equipment and may lead to Russia acquiring sensitive data concerning the F-35s.

Turkey has refused to bow to U.S. pressure, saying its defense purchase is a matter of national sovereignty and that the agreement with Russia is a commercial deal it can't cancel.



PHOTOS BY THE TURKISH DEFENCE MINISTRY/AP

Above: A Russian transport aircraft carrying parts of the S-400 missile defense system lands at the Murted military airport in Ankara, Turkey, on Friday. Below: S-400-related military vehicles and equipment are unloaded.



USAF major charged with murder of Texas wife

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — An Air Force major based in San Antonio has been charged with murder after authorities found the remains of his wife whom he reported missing in March.

Andre McDonald, 40, was being held Monday at the Bexar County Jail. Bail is set at \$2 million.

Sheriff's officials said they found the body of Andreen McDonald, 29, on Thursday east of Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Andre McDonald reported his wife missing March 1 and was indicted on a charge of tampering with or fabricating evidence after authorities determined he bought a shovel, an ax, gasoline and a "burn barrel" a day later.

Court records show investigators also found blood and hair in the couple's bathroom.

Jail records do not list an attorney who could speak on McDonald's behalf.

Afghan official: Bomb killed at least 9

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan official said at least nine people were killed when the truck they were riding in hit a roadside bomb in southern Kandahar province.

Yousuf Yousofi, a provincial

council member, said 18 civilians were wounded in the explosion on Monday afternoon in the district of Khakrez.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Yousofi blamed the Taliban, who often use roadside bombs to target Afghan security forces in

the province.

He said women and children were among those killed, but he couldn't provide an exact breakdown.

All the victims were members of the same family and their close relatives who were on their way to a shrine.

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MILITARY

VA employees not affected by new 'smoke-free' policy

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced its health care facilities will soon be "smoke-free," though a smoking ban set to take effect Oct. 1 does not apply to employees, the agency clarified Friday.

While veterans, visitors, volunteers, contractors and vendors will be prohibited from smoking on VA grounds, employees will keep their smoking privileges because of a memorandum of understanding between the VA and the American Federation of Government Employees, a federal union that represents VA workers.

The memorandum requires the department to maintain smoking areas for employees, said Tim

Kauffman, a communications specialist with the AFGE.

"By Oct. 1, VA will institute this commonsense policy for patients, visitors, contractors, volunteers and vendors throughout the Veterans Health Administration, but unfortunately, AFGE has not agreed to allow VA to curb employee smoking at department health care facilities," the VA said Friday in a statement.

A VA nurse in Michigan called the discrepancy unfair.

"We are not a smokeless facility, then, so why are they even promoting it?" the nurse said, speaking on the condition of anonymity out of concern she would be reprimanded for criticizing the policy.

"How can I look at a veteran with integrity and say, 'I can't

let you go out to smoke,' but my coworker just went out there? My feeling is, it should be all or none."

The VA announced in early summer the new smoke-free policy at its hospitals, clinics and nursing homes, citing "growing evidence" that smoking, as well as secondhand and thirdhand smoke, is a medical and safety risk. The policy prohibits cigarettes, cigars, pipes, vape pens and e-cigarettes.

Anyone caught violating the policy could be subject to a \$50 fine.

The new policy also calls for the "dismantling" and "phasing out" of all designated smoking areas, though a federal mandate — the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 — requires the VA to maintain



SALVADOR R. MORENO/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

A new policy put forward by Veterans Affairs bans smoking at its health care facilities but doesn't extend the ban to its employees.

them. At the latest count, there were nearly 1,000 outdoor smoking areas at VA hospitals, clinics and nursing homes nationwide, as well as 15 indoor smoking areas.

On Thursday, a bipartisan group of lawmakers, led by Rep. Brad Wenstrup, R-Ohio, introduced legislation that would apply the smoking ban to employees as well as anyone else on VA prem-

ises. The measure would also repeal the section of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 that requires the VA to provide designated smoking areas.

Wenstrup introduced the same bill in 2017. It passed the House, but the Senate never considered it.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

Unprepared: Report warns of doubts in US cyberdefense capabilities

FROM FRONT PAGE

inertia, the political dominance of traditional weapons and military organizations, the distraction of the post-9/11 wars, and a failure to comprehend the cumulative damage and how rapidly warfare is changing.

America's adversaries have stayed in the so-called "gray zone," below the level of attacks that would trigger a full-scale U.S. response.

In cyberspace, Bayer compares that to a parasite that constantly saps its host — but not so much as to trigger a full-scale white blood cell counterattack.

Rep. Mike Gallagher, who co-chairs the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, a bipartisan panel studying competition in the infosphere, is among those calling for a national awareness campaign.

"Ultimately, our success or failure in cyber will come down not to algorithms or technology but to human beings," said the Wisconsin Republican, who noted that he was not speaking for the commission. "Everyone who has a cellphone in their pocket is in some ways on the front lines of a geopolitical competition."

Mounting problem

Information operations and cyberattacks in the gray zone have grown in recent years — in number, sophistication and damage.

China's 2018 attack on a Navy contractor gave that country access not just to details of a key new anti-ship missile but also to much of what the Navy knows about China's maritime capabilities.

China has also reportedly stolen data on F-35 fighters, littoral combat ships, anti-missile systems and drones operated by the U.S. military.

The broader U.S. economy has lost more than \$1 trillion in intellectual property pilfered in cyberspace, experts say.

Russia has specialized in a massive information warfare campaign to influence U.S. elections by sowing discord and planting lies in U.S. social media circles.

North Korea, Iran and even terrorist groups have shown they, too, can do damage with a few keystrokes.



COURTESY OF DREAMSTIME/TNS

A Pentagon official says the military is working to improve some aspects of cyber preparedness, even as national security experts say the U.S. is losing a war in cyberspace that is already underway.

On June 11, national security adviser John Bolton publicly stated that the U.S. has stepped up its offensive cyberattacks since last year. The message to America's adversaries, Bolton said, is "You will pay a price."

Four days later, The New York Times reported that the United States, in a classified operation, had penetrated Russia's energy grid with malware that, if triggered, could disrupt Russia's electrical systems. The Pentagon has said the Times reporting was inaccurate but has not provided any clarification.

Later that month, Yahoo News disclosed that U.S. Cyber Command had hit Iranian military computers after Iran shot down a U.S. drone in the Persian Gulf.

Despite this ramped-up offense, America's defenses lag behind, according to retired Army Gen. Keith Alexander, who headed the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command.

Defenseless defense

The Navy cybersecurity review, made public in March, said those defenses are severely lacking.

As the Navy prepares to win "some future kinetic battle," the report said, it is "losing" the current one. Defense contractors "hemorrhage critical data."

The current situation is the result of a "national miscalculation" about the extent to which the cyber war is upon us, and the vaunted U.S. military's systems have been "compromised to such (an) extent that their reliability is questionable."

The U.S. economy, too, will soon lose its status as the world's strongest if trends do not change, the authors wrote.

The Defense Science Board has delivered a similar message, recommending in 2017 that a second U.S. military that is truly cyber secure be created as soon as possible, because the one America has will not necessarily work.

A cyberattack on the military, the science board said, "might result in U.S. guns, missiles, and bombs failing to fire or detonate or being directed against our own troops; or food, water, ammo, and fuel not arriving when or where needed; or the loss of position/navigation ability or other critical warfighter enablers."

The report chillingly warned that doubts about U.S. defense capabilities due to cyber

vulnerabilities could cause a president to more quickly turn to nuclear weapons in a conflict.

Kenneth Rapuano, the Pentagon assistant secretary for homeland defense and global security, said the department is trying to implement "as a matter of top priority" the Defense Science Board recommendation to ensure that at least part of the military is at the highest level of cyber preparedness, starting with nuclear weapons.

People power

The battle for cyberspace will hinge on human beings.

Hence the worries about China's 2014 hacks into the personal information of more than 22 million federal workers, contractors, family and friends in the Office of Personnel Management's databases.

A lack of cyberhygiene by just one employee or subcontractor of the government can be the entryway for a cyber break-in with strategic consequences.

At the Pentagon, auditors have repeatedly found that major weapons have been exposed to cyberattacks because of simple snafus such as a failure to use encryption, two-factor authentication, proper passwords or, in one instance, leaving a room full of servers unlocked.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon and the government as a whole are short on cyber-savvy personnel, who are often lured away to high-paying Silicon Valley firms. As of April, America's overall cyber workforce is short 314,000 workers, a House Armed Services Subcommittee said in a report last month.

President Donald Trump and leaders in the Defense Department and Congress have begun to significantly increase their attention to the problem, but their efforts are still dwarfed by the challenge, many observers believe.

Consider how infrequently U.S. leaders talk about cyber issues. On congressional defense committees and even at the Pentagon, cyber is essentially an afterthought compared with weapons hardware and military pay and benefits.

NATION

Epstein to remain jailed as judge considers bail

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Financier Jeffrey Epstein will remain behind bars for now as a federal judge mulls whether to grant bail on charges he sexually abused underage girls.

The judge said during a hearing Monday in New York he needed more time to make a decision.

Federal prosecutors maintained the well-connected Epstein, 66, is a flight risk and danger to the community — saying he should remain incarcerated until he is tried on charges that he recruited and abused dozens of underage girls in New York and Florida in the early 2000s.

Prosecutors said their case is getting “stronger by the day” after several more women contacted them in recent days to say he abused them when they were underage.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex Rossmler also revealed Monday that authorities found “piles of cash,” “dozens of diamonds” and an expired passport with Epstein’s picture and a fake name during a raid of his Manhattan mansion following his July 6 arrest.

Epstein’s lawyers said he has not committed crimes since pleading guilty to charges of soliciting a minor for prostitution in Florida in 2008 and that the federal government is renegeing on a 12-year-old plea deal not to prosecute him. They said they planned to file a motion to dismiss the case and that Epstein should be allowed to await trial under house arrest in his \$77 million Manhattan mansion, with electronic monitoring.

In a written submission Friday to U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman, prosecutors shared new information about their investigation and why they perceive Epstein as dangerous.

They said several additional women in multiple jurisdictions had identified themselves to the government, claiming Epstein abused them when they were minors. Also, dozens of individuals have called the government to report information about Epstein and the charges he faces, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said they believe Epstein might have tried to influence witnesses after discovering that he had paid a total of \$350,000 to two individuals, including a former employee, in the last year. That came after the Miami Herald reported the circumstances of his state court conviction in 2008, which led to a 13-month jail term and his deal to avoid federal prosecution.

“This course of action, and in particular its timing, suggests the defendant was attempting to further influence co-conspirators who might provide information

against him in light of the recently re-emerging allegations,” prosecutors said.

The decade-old secret plea deal led to Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta’s resignation last week. Acosta came under renewed criticism following Epstein’s arrest over the 2008 nonprosecution agreement he oversaw as the U.S. attorney in Miami.

In addition to the charges in the indictment, prosecutors are reviewing dozens of electronic files seized during a raid on Epstein’s residence after his July 6 arrest,

finding more photos than the hundreds or thousands of pictures of nude and seminude young women and girls they had reported prior to a court hearing a week ago.

In their submission to the judge, Epstein’s lawyers say their client has had a clean record since he began registering as a sex offender after his Florida conviction.

They said the accusations against Epstein are “outside the margins of federal criminal law” and don’t constitute sex trafficking since there were no allegations he “trafficked anybody for



UNA SANGHVI, PALM BEACH (FLA.) POST/AP

Federal prosecutors, preparing for a bail fight Monday, say evidence against Jeffrey Epstein, above center in court on July 30, 2008, is growing “stronger by the day.”

commercial profit; that he forced, coerced, defrauded or enslaved anybody.”

Prosecutors said efforts by defense lawyers to characterize Epstein’s crimes as “simple prostitution” were “not only of

fensive but also utterly irrelevant given that federal law does not recognize the concept of a child prostitute — there are only trafficking victims — because a child cannot legally consent to being exploited.”



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Garmisch, Germany

NATION

Trump acts to end Central Americans' asylum protections

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Monday moved to end asylum protections for most Central American migrants in a major escalation of the president's battle to tamp down the number of people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

According to a new rule published in the Federal Register, asylum-seekers who pass through another country first will be ineligible for asylum at the U.S. southern border.

The rule, expected to go into effect Tuesday, also applies to children who have crossed the border alone.

The rule applies to anyone arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border. Sometimes asylum-seekers from Africa and other continents arrive there, but most migrants arriving there are Central Americans.

There are some exceptions. If someone has been trafficked, if the country the migrant passed through did not sign one of the major international treaties that govern how refugees are managed (though most Western coun-

tries have signed them) or if an asylum-seeker sought protection in a country but was denied, then a migrant could still apply for U.S. asylum.

But the move by President Donald Trump's administration was meant to essentially end asylum protections as they now are on the southern border, reversing decades of U.S. policy on how refugees are treated and coming as the government continues to clamp down on migrants and as the treatment of those who made it to the country is heavily criticized as inhumane.

Attorney General William Barr said that the United States is "a generous country but is being completely overwhelmed" by the burdens associated with apprehending and processing hundreds of thousands of migrants at the southern border.

"This rule will decrease forum shopping by economic migrants and those who seek to exploit our asylum system to obtain entry to the United States," Barr said in a statement.

The policy is almost certain to face a legal challenge.



MARK LAMRUE, THE EL PASO (TEXAS) TIMES/AP

Asylum-seekers cross the border between El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, on July 4. A new rule put forward by the Trump administration would end asylum protection for most Central Americans.

U.S. law allows refugees to request asylum when they arrive at the U.S. regardless of how they did so, but there is an exception for those who have come through a country considered to be "safe." But the Immigration and Nationality Act, which governs asylum law, is vague on how a country is determined "safe," it says "pursuant to a bilateral or multilateral agreement."

Right now, the U.S. has such an agreement, known as a "safe third country," only with Canada. Under a recent agreement with Mexico, Central American countries were considering a regional compact on the issue, but nothing has been decided.

Guatemalan officials were ex-

pected in Washington on Monday, but apparently a meeting between Trump and Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales was canceled amid a court challenge in Guatemala over whether the country could agree to a safe third with the U.S.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelerud, who has litigated some of the major challenges to the Trump administration's immigration policies, said the rule was unlawful.

"The rule, if upheld, would effectively eliminate asylum for those at the southern border," he said. "But it is patently unlawful."

The new rule also will apply to the initial asylum screening,

known as a "credible fear" interview, at which migrants must prove they have credible fears of returning to their home country. It applies to migrants who are arriving to the U.S., not those who are already in the country.

Trump administration officials say the changes are meant to close the gap between the initial asylum screening that most people pass and the final decision on asylum that most people do not win.

But immigrant rights groups, religious leaders and humanitarian groups have said the Republican administration's policies amount to a cruel and calloused effort to keep immigrants out of the country.

Dem money jitters ease after haul in 2nd quarter

By BRIAN SLODYKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Some big fundraising hauls by Democrats have eased worries that lackluster totals last quarter were a sign the party would struggle to stockpile cash for the general election fight with President Donald Trump.

All campaigns have to report their second-quarter fundraising totals to the Federal Election Commission by the end of Monday. But early glimpses offered by a handful of contenders show they collectively raised about \$96 million, putting them within striking distance of the \$105 million raised by Trump and the Republican National Committee.

Pete Buttigieg led the second-quarter field of Democratic White House hopefuls with \$24.8 million, a jaw-dropping sum to be raised by a candidate who entered the race months ago as the little-known mayor of South Bend, Ind.

He was followed by former Vice President Joe Biden, who raised \$21.5 million. Massachusetts Sen.



WILFREDO LEE/AP

Top Democrats have revealed their second-quarter fundraising numbers with Pete Buttigieg, left, and Joe Biden leading the pack.

Elizabeth Warren rebounded from a mediocre first quarter and came in third with \$19.1 million. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders posted \$18 million, while California Sen. Kamala Harris reported raising about \$12 million.

Others in the sprawling field that's drawn more than 20 candidates have yet to announce their numbers. But they are certain to have pulled in far less, offering what will likely be the latest sign that two distinct tiers are emerging in the primary: one which will have ample resources to build a national operation and get their message out, and another forced to make difficult financial decisions and triage limited cash.

"Top-tier" candidates will need to pull in eight-figure quarters to stay competitive and run effective

campaigns on a national scale," said Dennis Cheng, who was the finance director for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. "The second quarter was about raising the bar and exceeding expectations."

One of the most immediate challenges for candidates who have struggled to gain traction is nothing enough donors to qualify for the next round of debates.

The Democratic National Committee has increased the thresholds to reach the fall debate stage, leaving a wide swath of the field scrambling to qualify.

To secure a slot on the stage, candidates have to reach 2% in a handful of polls while racking up contributions from at least 130,000 donors in at least 20 different states.

Dems condemn Trump tweet; GOP mostly quiet

By EMILY KOPP
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — While Democrats were united in their condemnation of President Donald Trump's call for four members of Congress to "go back" to "the crime infested countries from which they came," nearly no Republicans had publicly rebuked the president a day after his Sunday tirade.

On the Republican side of the aisle, condemnations of Trump for calling four of their colleagues unworthy to serve in Congress because of their non-European heritage were slow to materialize. Even as conservative pundits decried the president's targeting of four progressive lawmakers — Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, of New York; Ilhan Omar, of Minnesota; Ayanna Pressley, of Massachusetts; and Rashida Tlaib, of Michigan — as an ugly attack rooted in racism, not a political critique.

By Democratic Rep. Jim McGovern's account, Republican lawmakers condemn the president's words in private, even as they hesitate to in public.

"Towards," the House Rules Committee chairman said of

his GOP colleagues in a tweet Sunday.

While it is unclear what motivated the president's vitriol, the coalition of progressive freshmen known as the "squad" has become a favorite target of the Republican Party. The diatribe follows a similar line of attack Fox News host Tucker Carlson aimed at Omar last week.

The campaign arm of House Republicans, the National Republican Campaign Committee, launched a site Monday that hopes to tarnish Democrats in competitive districts by aligning them with the "squad," Politico reported.

Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin, of Maryland, called for a "strong bipartisan rebuke" of the president's comments. But that hasn't happened.

Rep. Chip Roy, a Republican from Texas who has supports a barrier wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and held up billions in disaster aid earlier this year in a call for more funding for the agency that detains migrant children, called the tweets "wrong."

But other Republicans have remained mum, even as Democrats' outraged calls for them to speak out pile up.

NATION

Weakened Barry still poses risks as it moves north

By REBECCA SANTANA
AND JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Even though Tropical Depression Barry did not unleash catastrophic flooding in Louisiana, many across the Gulf Coast were urged to take heed of tornado and flash-flood warnings Monday as the storm moved north.

Barry was downgraded from a tropical storm Sunday afternoon but continued to pose a threat. Much of Louisiana and Mississippi were under flash-flood watches, as were parts of Arkansas, eastern Texas, western Tennessee and southeastern Missouri.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards urged residents to be cautious as they ventured outside after a weekend in which many had sheltered indoors.

He said he was "extremely grateful" that the storm had not caused the disastrous floods that had earlier been forecast. More than 90 people had been rescued in 15 parishes, but there were no reports of weather-related fatalities, Edwards said.

"This was a storm that obviously could have played out very, very differently," he said. "We're thankful that the worst-case scenario did not happen."

Forecasters warned of a continued threat of heavy rains into Monday as the center of the storm trudged inland.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Sunday parts of south-central Louisiana could still have rainfall totals of up to 12 inches, with isolated pockets of 15 inches.

In Mississippi, forecasters said 8 inches of rain had fallen in parts of Jasper and Jones counties, with several more inches possible.

Barry's center was moving from northern Louisiana into Arkansas.

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell said Sunday the city was "beyond lucky" that rainfall there fell well short of early predictions of a deluge that could overwhelm the city's pumping systems.

"We were spared," she said at a news conference while noting the city was ready to help nearby



HENRIETTA WILDSMITH, THE SHREVEPORT (LA) TIMES/AP

A man tries to bike through floodwaters from storm Barry on LA Hwy 675 in New Iberia, La., on Sunday. The tropical depression dumped rain as it slowly swept inland through Gulf Coast states Sunday.

parishes hit harder.

About 51,000 customers in Louisiana, 1,800 customers in Mississippi and another 1,700 customers in Arkansas were without power Sunday night, according to poweroutage.us.

Edwards thanked the public for taking officials' warnings seriously over the weekend, but he also reminded residents that it is still relatively early in the Atlantic's hurricane season. "Based on what we've experienced, I think [we will be] even better prepared for next time — and we do know that there will be a next time," Edwards said.



DAVID GRUNFELD, THE BATON ROUGE, LA.) ADVOCATE/AP

People walk on a street during a downpour at the French Quarter in New Orleans on Sunday.

Healthy lifestyle may offset risk of Alzheimer's

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A healthy lifestyle can cut your risk of developing Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia even if you have genes that raise your risk for these mind-destroying diseases, a large study has found.

People with high genetic risk and poor health habits were about three times more likely to develop dementia compared with those with low genetic risk and good habits, researchers reported Sunday. Regardless of how much genetic risk someone had, a good diet, adequate exercise, limiting alcohol and not smoking made dementia less likely.

"I consider that good news," said John Haaga, of the U.S. National Institute on Aging, one of the study's many sponsors. "No one can guarantee you'll escape this awful disease" but you can tip the odds in your favor with clean living, he said.

Results were discussed at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Los Angeles and published online by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

About 50 million people have dementia, and Alzheimer's disease is the most common type. Genes and lifestyle contribute to many diseases, but researchers only recently have had the tools and information to do large studies to see how much each factor matters.

One such study a few years ago found that healthy living could help overcome genetic risk for heart disease. Now re-

'... With 95% of the mutations, your lifestyle will make a difference. Don't be too worried about your genetics. Spend more time being mindful of living a healthy life.'

Dr. Rudy Tanzi

genetics expert at Massachusetts General Hospital

researchers have shown the same to be true for dementia.

Dr. Elzbieta Kuzma and colleagues at the University of Exeter Medical School in England used the UK Biobank to study nearly 200,000 people 60 or older with no signs or symptoms of dementia at the start. Their genetic risk was classified as high, medium or low based on dozens of mutations known to affect dementia. "They also were grouped by lifestyle factors."

After about eight years of study, 1.8% of those with high genetic risk and poor lifestyles had developed dementia compared with 0.6% of folks with low genetic risk and healthy habits.

Among those with the highest genetic risk, just over 1% of those with favorable lifestyles developed dementia compared with nearly 2% of those with poor lifestyles.

One limitation was researchers had information only on mutations affecting people of European ancestry, so it's not known whether the same is true for other racial or ethnic groups.

The results should give encouragement to people who fear that gene mutations alone determine their destiny, said Dr. Rudy Tanzi, a genetics expert at Massachusetts General Hospital. Less than 5% of the ones tied to Alzheimer's are "fully penetrant," meaning that they guarantee you'll get the disease, he said.

"That means that with 95% of the mutations, your lifestyle will make a difference," Tanzi said. "Don't be too worried about your genetics. Spend more time being mindful of living a healthy life."

One previous study in Sweden and Finland rigorously tested the effect of a healthy lifestyle by assigning one group to follow one and included a comparison group that did not. It concluded that healthy habits could help prevent mental decline. The Alzheimer's Association is sponsoring a similar study underway now in the United States.

Healthy living also is the focus of new dementia prevention guidelines that the World Health Organization released in February.

NYC's mayor on defensive over blackout criticism

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York's mayor is fending off criticism because he was in Iowa campaigning for his presidential bid while Manhattan was in the grips of a major power outage.

Bill de Blasio said Monday on MSNBC that he was in frequent contact with agencies handling the emergency and that he thinks first responders did an "incredible job."

The Saturday night blackout darkened more than 40 square blocks of Manhattan, including Times Square.

De Blasio sidestepped criticism from numerous quarters, including from Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a fellow Democrat. A front-page New York Post editorial called for de Blasio's ouster.

De Blasio said he took a four-hour car ride from Iowa to Chicago and got on the first available plane home.

He insisted that the blackout response was well-managed with his remote supervision.

Con Edison engineers and planners are looking into what happened at a substation Saturday evening that caused the blackout for about four hours.



de Blasio

NATION



KEITH RIDLER/AP



MARK CHANEY/AP

Left: Stacey Chaney and her brother, Shane Del Grosso, enjoy a moment together at a youth baseball game in Hagerstown, Md., in April 2016, shortly before Del Grosso committed suicide at age 50. Right: A memorial stone for Del Grosso is at the Wildland Firefighters Monument at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

Efforts to stop firefighter suicides boosted

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

Shane Del Grosso spent some 30 summers crossing smoke-shrouded mountains and forests to fight increasingly devastating wildfires in the U.S. West.

Toward the end, his skills and experience propelled him to lead a federal multi-agency team that responded to large-scale national disasters. On some days, he directed 1,000 firefighters and helped coordinate aircraft attacks on massive blazes.

But then came the long offseason, lacking the shared-risk camaraderie. Isolation closed in, his family said, along with marital problems that can be exacerbated by first-responder jobs that require missed family events and birthdays.

Del Grosso, 50, killed himself May 9, 2016, not long before the start of another wildfire season.

"I always thought that you'd see it coming, but I guess you don't," said his best friend, Noel Matson, who worked and fought wildfires out of the same U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Huron, S.D., as Del Grosso. "It was maybe that male bravado firefighter thing where you don't talk about what's bothering you."

Federal officials at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise have started making efforts to change that mindset after noticing an increase in wildland firefighter suicides in recent years.

"It's not a profession where people want to reach out for help because they are the help," said Jessica Gardetto, a fire center spokeswoman and former wildland firefighter. "The federal agencies have realized, whether it's suicidal tendencies or just overall mental health, it's a resource that needs to be available — even out on the fire lines."

Stats unavailable

No figures on wildland firefighter suicides are available because federal agencies often track only fatalities that occur during work hours, and families don't always release a cause of death.

But Gardetto said the wildland firefighting community is small "and word spreads



KEITH RIDLER/AP

Bill Arsenault, of the Idaho Falls Fire Department, looks at memorial stones at the firefighters monument. He said it's good that Del Grosso is honored there.

quickly."

Anecdotal reports suggest many of the suicides are happening outside the wildfire season. A month ago, she said, a U.S. Forest Service firefighter based in the Southwest killed himself. She said several suicides occurred in Idaho in 2017. One of those was a Boise-based U.S. Bureau of Land Management smokejumper, a firefighter who jumps from airplanes.

Reasons for the rise are unclear, though some cite longer and tougher wildfire seasons and an increase in the number of wildland firefighters who previously served in the military and were already dealing with post-traumatic stress.

In the past several years, the National Interagency Fire Center has bolstered a program that teaches coping skills and offers one-on-one crisis intervention to firefighters dealing with trauma and other issues. Federal agencies also have increased efforts to make firefighters aware that help is available.

It's unclear what kind of help Del Grosso was receiving. His family learned after his death that he'd been diagnosed with PTSD.

"Obviously, he couldn't escape whatever demons were haunting him. And that breaks your heart," said his older sister, Stacey Chaney.

Throughout Del Grosso's career with different agencies, his family tracked news reports hoping to get a glimpse of him at work. It was easier after he rose through the ranks to become an incident commander, a job in which he often spoke at news conferences.

He also sent thousands of wildland firefighters into burning forests, and they trusted him to get them out again.

"He relished his role as incident commander," said Matson, Del Grosso's friend and colleague. "He worked well with people and knew just about every position, and everybody respected that."

Hurricane Katrina

Friends and family say Hurricane Katrina might have taken the most out of Del Grosso.

He told them it was the worst disaster he'd ever been assigned, but left out the details. Nearly 2,000 people died in the 2005 hurricane and its aftermath, and parts of New Orleans were destroyed.

"I think that's where a lot of his problems started," said his mother, Sharalyn Del Grosso. "Seeing all that death, all that loss, all that death and dying. There were so many people that needed so much, and he couldn't do it. That need of wanting to fix it, to do more, to make it better."

Del Grosso is one of the highest-ranking firefighters to have his name placed on a memorial stone at the Wildland Firefighters Monument at the federally managed fire center in Idaho. The monument honors some 400 firefighters killed by flames, falling trees, vehicle mishaps, airplane crashes and heart attacks.

That Del Grosso's name was included is recognition of some of the challenges wildland firefighters face away from fire lines, said Bill Arsenault, a wildland firefighter and paramedic with the Idaho Falls Fire Department in southeastern Idaho.

"It's huge," he said while walking past the monument's stones, noting the names of some of the firefighters he knew. "Sometimes we only memorialize quote-unquote 'true heroes.' But they were doing the job no different from anyone else. I think it's good that we're recognizing the contribution that Shane made."

"It's not a profession where people want to reach out for help because they are the help."

Jessica Gardetto
National Interagency Fire Center

NATION

Puerto Rico's governor rejects resignation calls

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Protesters in Puerto Rico gathered outside the La Fortaleza governor's residence on Sunday, demanding Gov. Ricardo Rossello step down for his involvement in a private chat in which he used profanities to describe an ex-New York City councilwoman and a federal control board overseeing the island's finances.

The demonstrators included teachers, union workers, students, members of a feminist collective and others who congregated in front of the mansion chanting, "Ricky resign, the people don't want you!"

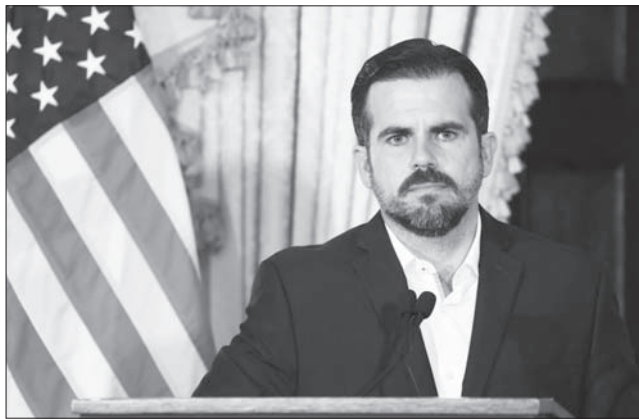
The undersecretary of La Fortaleza's press office, Michelle De

la Cruz, said she did not know if the governor was home. The residence's main doors were padlocked and other entrances were barricaded shut and monitored by police.

Some activists say they are ashamed of the language used by Rossello in the group chat and the ways the reputation of the U.S. territory might be affected.

The chat, which came to light last week, showed that the governor called former New York City Council speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito the Spanish word for "where," and in English told the oversight board to "go f--- yourself" followed by a string of emojis with the middle finger raised.

Two top officials, Chief Financial Officer Christian Sobrino and



CARLOS GUSTI/AP

Puerto Rico governor Ricardo Rossello, seen during a press conference, has ignored calls for his resignation after messages in which he used profanity in referring to a former New York City councilwoman were released.

Secretary of State Luis G. Rivera Marin, have already resigned.

Rossello said at a church in the capital of San Juan on Sunday that he was humbled by events and would look to God to guide

him through "figurative or real" hurricanes.

He said that his "commitment is to learn from what was done" and continue "advancing efforts so that Puerto Rico can move

forward."

In the afternoon, House and Senate leadership of Rossello's New Progressive Party were expected to meet.

Activists gather to protest work on telescope in Hawaii

BY CALEB JONES
AND JENNIFER SINCO
KELLEHER

Associated Press

MAUNA KEA, Hawaii — Hundreds of demonstrators were gathered at the base of Hawaii's tallest mountain to protest the construction of a giant telescope on land that some Native Hawaiians consider sacred.

State and local officials were going to try to close the road to the summit of Mauna Kea on Monday to allow trucks carrying construction equipment to make their way to the top.

Officials say anyone breaking the law will be prosecuted. Protesters who blocked the roadway during previous attempts to begin construction have been arrested.

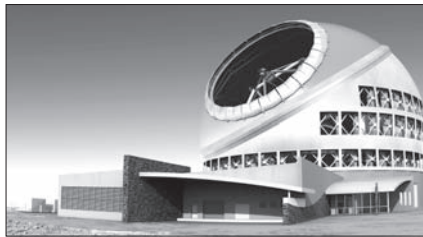
Scientists hope the massive telescope they planned for the site — a world-renowned location for astronomy — will help them peer back to the time just after the Big Bang and answer fundamental questions about the universe.

But some Native Hawaiians consider the land holy, as a realm of gods and a place of worship.

Groups of activists sang and prayed at the base of the mountain on Sunday afternoon. They declared the area, which is well off the highway at the intersection of the mountain's access road, a place of refuge and safety.

"This is Hawaiian homelands," Kealoha Pisciotto, one of the protest leaders, said. "We're clearly out of their way, we're not obstructing anything, everyone is in ceremony."

The project already has been



COURTESY OF TMT/AP

Construction of a giant telescope, illustrated above, is to start again this week after court battles over the Hawaii site that some consider sacred.

delayed by years of legal battles and demonstrations, drawing attention from the likes of "Aquaman" actor Jason Momoa, who has Native Hawaiian ancestry and has voiced opposition to the telescope.

Scientists selected Mauna Kea in 2009 after a five-year, worldwide search for the ideal site.

Protests disrupted a groundbreaking and Hawaiian blessing ceremony at the site in 2014. After that, the demonstrations intensified.

Construction stopped in April 2015 after protesters were arrested for blocking the work.

A second attempt to restart construction a few months later ended with more arrests and crews pulling back.

But Hawaii's Supreme Court has ruled the construction is legal, permits are in place, and the state

has given the company behind the telescope a green light to resume its efforts. The company is made up of a group of universities in California and Canada, with partners from China, India and Japan.

According to the University of Hawaii, ancient Hawaiians considered the location kapu, or forbidden. Only the highest-ranking chiefs and priests were allowed to make the long trek to Mauna Kea's summit above the clouds.

Today, the university leases the land at the summit from the state for existing telescopes and observatories on the summit. A road built for telescope access decades ago is used by thousands of tourists and locals each year, including Native Hawaiians who go there to pray.

Supporters of the \$1.4 billion giant telescope say the cutting-



HOLLYN JOHNSON, HAWAII TRIBUNE-HERALD/AP

The road to the top of Mauna Kea mountain on the Big Island, shown on Oct. 7, 2014, blocked by protesters, was to be closed Monday as equipment is delivered to the telescope site.

edge instrument will not only make important scientific discoveries but bring educational and economic opportunities to Hawaii.

The telescope's primary mirror would measure 98 feet in diameter. It would be three times as wide as the world's largest existing visible-light telescope, with nine times more area.

Gov. David Ige said unarmed National Guard units will be used to transport personnel and supplies and enforce some road clo-

sures, but they will not be used in a law enforcement capacity during planned protests.

In a news conference Sunday, Ige said that he "respected the right of people to protest" at the telescope site as long as protesters behave lawfully.

"As construction begins, our number one priority is keeping everyone safe," Ige said, adding that he wants to make sure construction workers and truck drivers have unimpeded access to the telescope site.

WORLD

China's economic growth cools more amid US tariff war

By JOE McDONALD
Associated Press

BEIJING — China's economic growth sank to its lowest level in at least 26 years in the quarter ending in June, adding to pressure on Chinese leaders as they fight a tariff war with Washington.

The world's second-largest economy grew 6.2% over a year ago, down from the previous quarter's 6.4%, government data showed Monday.

Forecasters expected China's economy to rebound in late 2018 but pushed back that target after President Donald Trump increased tariffs on Chinese imports to pressure Beijing over its technology development tactics. Now economists say the slowdown might extend into next year.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed last month to resume negotiations on the fight that has battered exporters on both sides. But economists warn

their truce is fragile because they still face the same array of disputes that caused talks to break down in May.

"The trade war is having a huge impact on the Chinese economy," Edward Moya, of OANDA, said in a report. "As trade negotiations struggle for meaningful progress, we are probably not near the bottom for China's economy."

Chinese leaders have stepped up spending and bank lending to keep growth within this year's official target range of 6% to 6.5% and avert politically dangerous job losses. But they face an avalanche of unexpectedly bad news including plunging auto sales.

In the second half of the year, the "external environment may still be more complicated," a government spokesman, Mao Shengyong, said at a news conference.

Quarterly growth was the lowest since China began reporting such data in 1993, according to



A man buys clothes from an American clothing store at a shopping mall in Beijing on Monday. New government data shows economic growth in China is sinking amid its tariff war with the U.S.

Andy Wong/AP

an employee of the press office of the National Bureau of Statistics, Dong Hui. In 2009, the NBS reported growth of 6.1% for the first three months of that year. However, Dong said that later was revised up to 6.4%.

Jittery consumers are putting off major purchases, depressing demand for autos, home appliances and other goods.

"I don't think the country's economy is as good as it looks," said Peng Tao, 26, a delivery courier who said he makes 5,000-6,000 yuan, or \$750-\$870, a month. "China has been surely hurt more in the trade war."

"I am not very happy about job prospects because there just aren't many opportunities out there."

Weaker Chinese activity has global repercussions. China is the biggest export customer for its Asian neighbors and a major market for global suppliers of food, mobile phones, industrial technology and consumer goods.

The International Monetary Fund and private sector economists have cut this year's Chinese growth forecast to as low as 6.2%, a further marked decline after last year's three-decade low of 6.6%.

Congo tracing contacts of pastor with Ebola

BENI, Congo — With Ebola reaching Congo's eastern city of Goma, authorities are tracking down bus passengers who rode with a pastor who became the first confirmed case in the regional capital.

Dr. Harouna Djingarey, with the World Health Organization's Ebola response, said they have located the two buses that the man took before he reached Goma on Sunday.

Djingarey said Monday that the case is worrying because Goma is "the door of this region to the rest of the world." The city of more than 2 million is on the border with Rwanda.

Health officials have feared since the beginning of the outbreak last August that cases could emerge in Goma.

The Ebola outbreak has killed nearly 1,700 people in Congo and two others who returned home to Uganda while sick.

Building collapse kills 12 in India after rains

NEW DELHI — Eleven soldiers were among a dozen bodies recovered from the debris of a three-story building that collapsed after monsoon rains hit a hilly area of northern India, officials said Monday.

Rescuers were looking for two to three people still unaccounted for after Sunday's collapse, said Gaurav Srivastav, an official from the National Disaster Response Force, or NDRF.

Fire official Raja Ram Bhagat said the dead included 11 army soldiers who were having a party in a ground-floor restaurant in the building when it collapsed. One civilian also was killed.

Several soldiers were among the 31 people rescued after the collapse occurred in Solan, a town in Himachal Pradesh state. The area is 195 miles north of New Delhi.

More than 70 NDRF rescuers and 40 fire officers have been clearing the rubble, using heavy movers, drillers and gas cutters.

4 kids drive SUV 600 miles on Aussie coast

CANBERRA, Australia — Four children ages 10 to 14 packed fishing rods in a parent's SUV, left a farewell note and drove more than 600 miles down the Australian east coast before they were stopped by police the next day after two fuel thefts and one aborted pursuit, officers said on Monday.

When the children were stopped by police near Grafton, in New South Wales, at 10:40 p.m. Sunday, they locked the doors and refused to get out, acting police Inspector Darren Williams said. A police officer used a baton to break a window of the 2004 Nissan Patrol, which had been reported stolen by worried parents, Williams said.

Police were not sure which child or children drove or why they left Rockhampton in Queensland state on Saturday.

From The Associated Press

Guatemala cancels meeting between Morales, Trump

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY — A meeting in Washington between President Donald Trump and his Guatemalan counterpart, Jimmy Morales, purportedly over a potential "safe third country" agreement for asylum-seekers, has been canceled, Guatemala's office of the presidency said Sunday.

The presidency said the meeting would be rescheduled because the Constitutional Court has not yet ruled on legal appeals aimed at preventing Morales from acceding to Trump's requests. The meeting had been set to take place Monday.

"Due to speculation and legal proceedings admitted for processing to the Constitutional

Court, a decision was made to reschedule the bilateral meeting until we know what was resolved by said court," a statement read.

"The government of the republic reiterates that at no moment has it contemplated signing an agreement to convert Guatemala into a safe third country."

It added that other bilateral issues in the public interest would continue to be discussed.

A "safe third country" agreement would mean that Salvadorans, Hondurans and people from elsewhere who cross into Guatemala would have to apply for asylum there instead of doing so at the U.S. border — potentially easing the immigration crush that the United States is dealing with and handing Trump a con-



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

Migrants arriving from Guatemala disembark from a raft in Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico, in June. A meeting with President Donald Trump to discuss Guatemala becoming a "safe third country" for asylum-seekers has been canceled.

cession he could tout as a win.

Critics have said that the Guatemalan government does not have the resources to help migrants and asylum-seekers trying to get to the U.S. when tens of thousands of its own citizens

have fled just this year.

U.S. officials said that "safe third country" is on the table, though not finalized, but the Guatemalan government said it was not intending to make such a deal.

Code-breaker Turing to be face of new British bank note

Associated Press

LONDON — Code-breaker and computing pioneer Alan Turing has been chosen as the face of Britain's new 50-pound note, the Bank of England announced Monday.

Gov. Mark Carney said Turing, who did groundbreaking work on computers and artificial intelligence, was "so many now stand."

During World War II, Turing worked at the secret Bletchley Park code-breaking center,

where he helped crack Nazi Germany's secret codes by creating the "Turing bombe," a forerunner of modern computers. He also developed the "Turing Test" to measure artificial intelligence. After the war, he was prosecuted for homosexuality, which was then illegal, and forcibly treated with female hormones.

He died at age 41 in 1954 after eating an apple laced with cyanide. Turing received a posthumous apology from the British government in 2009 and a royal pardon in 2013.

The U.K.'s highest-denomination note is the last to be redesigned and switched from paper to more secure and durable polymer.

The redesigned 10- and 20-pound notes feature author Jane Austen and artist J.M.W. Turner.

The Turing bank note will enter circulation in 2021. It includes a photo of the scientist, mathematical formulas and technical drawings, and a quote from Turing: "This is only a foretaste of what is to come, and only the shadow of

what is going to be."

Former lawmaker John Leech, who led the campaign for a pardon, said he was "absolutely delighted" by the choice.

"I hope it will go some way to acknowledging his unprecedented contribution to society and science," he said.

"But, more importantly, I hope it will serve as a stark and rightfully painful reminder of what we lost in Turing, and what we risk when we allow that kind of hateful ideology to win," he added.

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WORLD

South Korea: Tokyo's trade curbs will hurt Japan more

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — In his strongest comments yet on a growing trade dispute, South Korea's president urged Japan on Monday to lift recently tightened controls on high-tech exports to South Korea, which he said threaten to shatter the countries' economic cooperation and could damage Japan more than South Korea.

The dispute between the two U.S. allies has further soured relations already troubled over Japan's colonial rule of Korea before the end of World War II. President Moon Jae-in accused Japan of abusing its leverage in trade of punishing South Korea over their historical dispute. South Korea sees the trade curbs as retaliation for South Korean court rulings earlier this year that ordered Japanese corporations

to compensate South Korean victims for forced labor during World War II.

South Korea says the strengthened export controls of photoresists and other sensitive materials mainly to manufacture semiconductors and display screens could hurt its export-dependent economy and disrupt global supply chains.

Its government plans to file a complaint with the World Trade Organization and raise the issue at next week's WTO General Council in Geneva. Trade officials from the countries failed to resolve the dispute in a working-level meeting in Tokyo on Friday. Moon also said South Korea will use the dispute as an opportunity to reduce its dependence on Japan by strengthening its technology industry and diversifying import sources.

"Japan's export restrictions

have broken the framework of economic cooperation between South Korea and Japan that had continued over a half-century based on mutual dependence," Moon said in a meeting of senior aides at Seoul's presidential palace.

"The shattered credibility of cooperation with Japan in the manufacturing industry will inspire our companies to break out of their dependence on Japanese materials, components and equipment and work toward diversifying import sources or localizing the technologies. I warn that, eventually, it will be the Japanese economy that will be damaged more."

Analysts say the Japanese measure won't have any immediate meaningful impact on South Korean chipmakers, which have sufficient supplies of the materials for now, given a slowdown



ANN YOUNG-JOON/AP

South Korean business owners use scissors to cut T-shirts from Japanese brands during a rally calling for a boycott of Japanese products in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday.

in demand for semiconductors. But there is concern that Japan will expand its export controls to other industries.

Park Ki-young, a spokesman of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, said Monday that the government is bracing for the possibility that Japan will remove South Korea from a 27-country "whitelist" receiving preferential treatment in trade.

Its removal from the list would require Japanese companies to apply for case-by-case approv-

als for exports to South Korea of more than 850 items deemed sensitive, not just the three materials affected by the trade curbs that took effect July 4. It would also allow Japanese authorities to restrict any export to South Korea when they believe there are security concerns, Park said.

Moon spoke hours after dozens of South Korean small-business owners rallied in Seoul, calling for boycotts of Japanese consumer goods.



KIN CHEUNG/AP

Policemen scuffle with protesters Sunday inside a shopping mall in Sha Tin District in Hong Kong. Such confrontations have brought calls for action from Hong Kong lawmakers across the political spectrum.

Hong Kong lawmakers urge talks after clashes

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong lawmakers from both sides of the political spectrum urged action Monday in response to violent scuffles between police and protesters.

The demonstration Sunday in Hong Kong's Sha Tin district was peaceful for most of the day, but fights broke out when police started clearing streets after nightfall. Some protesters retreated into a shopping complex where they and police hit each other with clubs and umbrellas.

Both pro-democracy legislators and ones who support

China's Communist Party-led central government held news conferences Monday to address the clashes.

"Both sides have to come out and establish communication channels," said pro-Beijing lawmaker Starry Lee. "I think [Chief Executive Carrie Lam] and also the bureau responsible should come out and respond to this issue," Lee said.

Large-scale protests began in Hong Kong last month in opposition to proposed extradition legislation that would allow people in Hong Kong to be sent for trials in mainland China.

India assesses technical snag on spacecraft in aborted moon mission

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India's space organization is examining the technical snag that led to the aborting of the launch Monday of a spacecraft intended to land on the far side of the moon, an official said.

The Chandrayaan-2 mission was called off shortly before liftoff early Monday by the Indian Space Research Organization when a "technical snag" was observed in the 640-ton, 14-story rocket launcher.

Vivek Singh, the ISRO's media director, said the organization should be able to choose a new launch date within days. He declined to go into details.

Chandrayaan, the Sanskrit word for "moon craft," is designed for a soft landing on the lunar south pole and to send a rover to explore water deposits confirmed by a previous orbiting Indian space mission.

Pallava Bagla, science editor of New Delhi Television news channel, said that

launch windows have to meet several technical criteria and it could take weeks or months for a new date.

He also said on his channel that the rocket and the satellite were safe, and the highly inflammable liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen have been removed from the rocket.

The full details of what went wrong will be available when scientists can access the rocket and after a full analysis is carried out, he said.

Dr. K. Sivan, chairman of the ISRO, said last week that the \$140 million Chandrayaan-2 mission was the nation's most prestigious to date, in part because of the technical complexities of soft landing on the lunar surface — an event he described as "15 terrifying minutes."

If India did manage the soft landing, it would be only the fourth country to do so after the U.S., Russia and China.



MANISH SWARUP/AP

An Indian spectator folds India's national flag as others leave after the Chandrayaan-2 moon mission was aborted at Sriharikota, in southern India, on Monday.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US tech firms cozy up to China despite politics

By SHELLY BANJO,
ZHEPING HUANG AND IAN KING
Bloomberg

In a packed ballroom in Beijing's national convention center, the executive from a major technology company laid out ambitious plans for the future of artificial intelligence in China. He explained how customized semi-conductors would help power everything from autonomous cars to voice-activated industrial machines.

Only this wasn't a state-backed enterprise. This was Intel Corp., the largest U.S. chipmaker.

The company's artificial intelligence chief, Naveen Rao, pledged to work closely, "engineer to engineer," on cutting-edge technology

with the 7,000 people that attended Baidu Inc.'s annual developers conference last week. Intel was the top sponsor of the event.

Rao made no mention of politics, though his overwhelming support of Baidu, a Chinese national tech champion, sent a powerful message: Even as U.S. and Chinese leaders are locked in a fierce battle over technological supremacy, companies like Intel remain big backers of China's tech industry because they rely on the country for significant contributions of revenue, production chains and even talent.

Intel made 27% of its revenue in China last year, more than in the U.S. or any other market, but its fighting to hold on to customers

there that it spent decades cultivating. Like many American multinationals with large businesses in the country, Intel is walking a fine line between holding on to that lucrative market and keeping in Washington's good graces. Neutrality is becoming a tougher stance to maintain.

"There's been a psychotic break" in what some leaders in the U.S. government want and what American businesses want, said Josh Dorfman, founder of One Thousand Million, a China-focused consultancy and think tank based in Dallas.

"Unlike in China, U.S. companies aren't beholden to the country and are not obligated in any way, shape or form to be patriotic.

They want to make money," he said.

An Intel spokesman said the company remains engaged with Chinese customers that aren't on the U.S. list of those it sees as a security threat. China is a substantial market for Intel and it has no intention of pulling out now.

Intel isn't alone. Apple is heavily dependent on China not only for the manufacture of Mac computers and iPhones but it's also a major consumer market, accounting for about 20% of sales. Even as President Donald Trump threatened tariffs that would hit Apple products, the California-based company was making plans to shift production of its new Mac Pro computer to China, sending a clear signal of support.

While some companies are considering moving part of their production out of the country, many others are making gestures of goodwill. Walmart last week pledged to invest \$1.2 billion in China to upgrade logistics distribution centers. Boeing is in negotiations to sell 100 jetliners to Chinese airlines in one of its largest-ever deals, Bloomberg News reported.

Also, last month, 600 U.S. companies and trade groups signed a letter to Trump warning of tariff-related hits to their businesses.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 16)	\$1.1565
Dollar buys (July 16)	€0.8647
British pound (July 16)	\$1.29
Japanese yen (July 16)	¥105.00
South Korean won (July 16)	₩151.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2536
Canada (Dollar)	1.3030
China (Yuan)	6.8757
Denmark (Krone)	6.6273
Egypt (Pound)	16.5803
Euro	\$1.1267/0.8875
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8269
Hungary (Forint)	238.93
Israel (Shekel)	3.5379
Japan (Yen)	107.86
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3044
Norway (Krone)	8.5447
Philippines (Peso)	51.02
Poland (Zloty)	3.78
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7598
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3559
South Korea (Won)	1,179.15
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9835
Thailand (Baht)	30.90
Turkey (Lira)	5.7600

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federated market rate	4.1
3-month bill	2.10
30-year bond	2.63

American Airlines extends Boeing plane flight cancellations

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — American Airlines said Sunday that it will keep the Boeing 737 Max plane off its schedule until Nov. 3, which is two months longer than it had planned.

In a statement, American said the action will result in the cancellation of about 115 flights per day. It said it "remains confident" that the Boeing plane will be recertified this year. But some airline executives are growing doubtful about that timetable.

United Airlines announced Friday that it was extending its cancellations until Nov. 3, a month longer than it had planned.

United has 14 Max jets, while American has 24 of them. Southwest Airlines, which has 34 Max



TED S. WARREN/AP

The Boeing 737 Max airplane, one of which is shown being built in Renton, Wash., in December 2015, will remain grounded by American Airlines longer than planned, the airline said Sunday.

jets — more than any other carrier — is canceling about 150 flights per day. The plane was grounded in March following two deadly crashes.

The announcement Sunday marked the fifth time that American Airlines has pushed back the expected time that the Max would

resume flying.

"American Airlines remains confident that impending software updates to the Boeing 737 Max, along with the new training elements Boeing is developing in coordination with our union partners, will lead to recertification of the aircraft this year," the air-

line said.

In its previous announcement of further flight cancellations last month, American Airlines had said it had expected the recertification to be accomplished "soon."

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Ed Bastian, CEO of Delta Airlines, said, "I expect it's going to take longer than people expect" before the Max is certified to fly again. He said he could not venture a guess as to when that might occur.

Delta does not fly the Boeing Max plane and has not had to contend with the flight cancellations faced by other airlines that do fly the MAX. In late 2007, Delta was considering ordering the Max plane but ended up ordering 100 Airbus planes with an option to buy 100 more.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Couple rolls all 7s, 11s with daughter's birth

MO ST. LOUIS — A St. Louis couple has rolled all 7s and 11s with the birth of their daughter.

Jaime Brown was born at 7:11 p.m. on July 7, which convenience store chain 7-Eleven marks as 7-Eleven Day. Her birth weight? Seven pounds and 11 ounces, obviously.

TV station Fox 2 reported that Rachel Langford and Johnitez Brown are thrilled and that the hospital says the mother and baby are doing well.

Great whites spotted at 3 Cape Cod beaches

MA BOSTON — Great white sharks were spotted at three Cape Cod beaches, prompting a brief closure of the beaches Saturday, the Cape Cod Times reported.

Police and fire authorities said the sharks were seen by the Head of the Meadow Beach and Coast Guard Beach in Truro and at Nauset Beach in Orleans. Each beach was closed to swimming for an hour.

Researchers on Cape Cod launched a new study last month focused on the hunting and feeding habits of the region's great white sharks following last year's two attacks on humans, including the state's first fatal one in more than 80 years.

Man atop blast furnace forces venue evacuation

PA BETHLEHEM — A man who climbed atop the rusting blast furnace at a former eastern Pennsylvania steel mill is facing a felony charge of risking a catastrophe.

Jonathan David Wallace, 25, of Mertztown was also charged Sunday with reckless endangering and defiant trespass following the more than 21-hour ordeal at the old Bethlehem Steel Corp. site that ended Saturday.

An outdoor concert scheduled at the SteelStacks campus was canceled and about 1,500 people evacuated after the man climbed up shortly before 7 p.m. Friday, balancing precariously on a single steel beam hundreds of feet above the venue. Events scheduled later were postponed or canceled.

Officers climbed to a platform below and talked to the man for hours, and he was taken into custody about 4:30 p.m. Saturday and taken for a mental health evaluation.

Thieves light firecracker to divert attention

CA ALAMEDA — Authorities are searching for two people suspected of exploding a firecracker inside a busy Northern California store to divert attention while stealing a shopping cart loaded with groceries.

KTVU-TV reported that the blast Thursday frightened shoppers and prompted a shutdown of the Safeway store in Alameda. Police said a man threw the firecracker in the store's refriger-



GREG LEHMAN, THE WALLA WALLA (WASH.) UNION-BULLETIN/AP

Walla Walla water wading

Brandy Garner wades in the water with her horses, Rusty and Cima, at Bennington Lake in Walla Walla, Wash., on Friday.

erated beer section, creating a diversion that allowed a woman to leave the store with the full cart.

Sushi ingredient blamed for 2 restaurant fires

WI MADISON — The Madison Fire Department said the spontaneous combustion of a sushi ingredient is being blamed for two separate restaurant fires.

Authorities told Wisconsin Public Radio that an April 5 fire at Sumo Steakhouse and Sushi Bar and another May 10 at the Takara Japanese Restaurant both started after deep-fried tempura flakes caught on fire.

The ingredient is used to add crunch to some sushi rolls. But heat generated from the process can build to the point that the crunchy, cooked batter can ignite.

Authorities said surveillance footage and other evidence confirmed the source at the Sumo restaurant.

Man, 75, kicks gator that attacked his dog

FL PALM HARBOR — A 75-year-old man said he kicked an 8-foot alligator in the snout after it attacked his dog. Buddy Ackerman said the gator

THE CENSUS

\$1M

The value of cash and jewelry contained in two safes stolen from a Philadelphia home by two men, who also assaulted a teenage girl at the house. The contents amounted to her restaurant-owning parents' life savings. U.S. Attorney William McSwain announced Friday

that Khaiyri Burgess and Shaquan Johnson, both 20 and of Philadelphia, face federal robbery and weapons charges. Prosecutors allege Burgess used some of the money to buy a \$15,000 diamond encrusted necklace, a \$6,000 dirt bike and luxury items like Rolex watches and Gucci bags. Officials said the men dragged the sleeping 17-year-old from her bed last August, struck her in the head and demanded to know where the safes were.

came from a retention pond near his Palm Harbor condominium last week and grabbed the dog while they were out for an early morning walk. He kicked the gator until it let go of the golden retriever. The animal was not injured.

The Tampa Bay Times reported that Florida wildlife officials came and trapped the gator later that day.

Fossil of bone-crushing mammal a first in NW

OR BEND — Scientists said a fossil jaw bone misidentified for 50 years turns out to belong to a bone-crushing mammal and is the first to be found in the Northwest.

Scientists told the Bend Bulletin in a story on Friday that the 40

million-year-old fossil discovered at the John Day Fossil Beds in eastern Oregon is from a Harpagoles. That's a hoofed mammal that's a cross between a pig and a hyena.

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument Chief Paleontologist Nicholas Farnoso said scientists previously thought the fossil was from a polar bear-like creature.

He said University of Oregon paleontology student Selina Robson started investigating after becoming convinced the fossil was misidentified.

Man charged with killing polar bear

AK ANCHORAGE — An Alaska man is charged with killing a polar bear in violation of federal law.

Alaska's Energy Desk reported that Chris Gordon, 35, of Kak-tovik, shot the bear outside his home.

Federal prosecutors say Gordon left the carcass there for five months without salvaging any part of it.

Ryan Tansey, a federal prosecutor, said Gordon allegedly left butchered whale meat outside his home, which attracted the bear.

Sotheby's holding its first sneaker auction

NY NEW YORK — True sneaker heads will get the opportunity to expand their collection as Sotheby's in New York holds its first sneaker auction.

These aren't just any old sneakers but 100 of the rarest, most coveted sneakers around, including the Nike handmade "Moon Shoe" designed by Nike co-founder Bill Bowerman in 1972. Only 12 were made, and a pair is expected to fetch as much as \$160,000.

Another highlight is two pairs of Nike Mags inspired by "Back to the Future" made to raise money for Parkinson's research. Both models light up, and one is self-lacing.

Bidding runs through July 23. From wire reports

FACES

Speaking UP

Keegan-Michael Key lends voice to characters in 'Toy Story 4,' 'Lion King'



JOEL K. RYAN, INVISION/AP

By RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

Keeagan-Michael Key is living the acting dream by being part of two major movies hitting theaters only weeks apart.

He's not only a part of the much-loved "Toy Story" franchise with the recently released "Toy Story 4," but Key will be going head-to-head with himself in theaters Friday when the live-action version of "The Lion King" is released. In "Toy Story 4," Key's the voice of the not-so-lovable stuffed toy Ducky, while in "The Lion King" he speaks for the hyena Kamari.

"It feels satisfying. You can ask any journeyman actor, someone who works their whole career, sometimes you are doing it for the love and sometimes you are just doing it for the money," Key says. "But you hit pinnacles, and right now is a pinnacle moment for me."

"It is a watershed moment for me in my career — two American projects to what is ostensibly an American tradition — two American traditions. When you can say two words like 'Toy Story,' 'Lion King,' and it evokes something in people, you are doing something special. I feel blessed."

The two big voice work jobs are just the latest recording work for the Michigan native. His long list of credits with animated projects include "SuperMansion," "American Dad!," "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," "The Star" and "Bob's Burgers."

The ability to handle voice work goes back to the training Key got while attending Pennsylvania State University. He credits his study of 17th century restoration theater for his skill behind a microphone.

"That is a very archaic style and a little baroque," Key says. "In classical theater, especially when you are reading prose, there's lots of syntax you have to try to manage in specific parentheticals. It's being able to run into the parentheticals, hit the semicolon, bump up, small pause to the period. That's where the voice work training came from."

Key's well known for his voice work, but he has an equally impressive list of jobs where he's performed sketch and improvisational comedy from "MADtv" to "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and "Key and Peele," where he worked with his "Toy Story 4" recording buddy Jordan Peele, who is the voice of Bunny in the Pixar production. Key said the experience he gained by having to modulate his voice to play so many different characters doing improvisational and sketch comedy was an element that helped him, especially in "Toy Story 4."

“It is a watershed moment for me in my career to have been asked to what is ostensibly an American tradition — two American traditions.”

Keegan-Michael Key on being part of the voice cast for "Toy Story 4" and "The Lion King"

"Made," with him and Vincent Vaughn, it's that dynamic. I'm him, and Eric Andre is Vince Vaughn."

Key got to show off his improvisational skills in the early seasons. Favreau would allow the actors to come up with their own material to go with what was in the script. With each session, the process got more refined until the hyenas had their voices.

'Spider-Man' sticks to top of box office

From wire services

Sony's "Spider-Man: Far from Home" continued to dominate the box office in its second weekend of release, adding \$45.3 million for a cumulative \$274.5 million, according to estimates from measurement firm Comscore. Internationally, the film has earned \$572.5 million for a global cumulative of \$847 million.

In second place, Disney's "Toy Story 4" added \$20.7 million in its fourth weekend for a cumulative \$346.4 million. Globally, the film currently stands at \$771.1 million.

The horror film "Crawl" debuted in third place with \$12 million, outperforming analyst projections of \$10 million.

Fox's buddy comedy "Stubber," film starring Kumail Nanjiani and Dave Bautista as an Uber driver and Los Angeles police officer, respectively, opened at No. 4 with \$8 million.

"Yesterday" added \$6.7 million in its third weekend for a cumulative \$48.3 million.

Ed Sheeran confirms he's married to Cherry Seaborn

Ed Sheeran has confirmed for the first time that he and long-time girlfriend Cherry Seaborn are married.

British media reported the pair wed before Christmas in front of about 40 friends and family.

In an interview to promote his album "No. 6 Collaborations Project," Sheeran, 28, talked about how he wrote the song "Remember the Name," which refers to "my wife."

The British singer-songwriter said "I knew that we'd be married by the point that the song came out."

The album, released July 12, includes collaborations with Justin Bieber, Stormzy, Eminem, 50 Cent and Bruno Mars.

Sheeran and Seaborn, 26, announced their engagement in 2018.

Other news

■ Remains found in a remote area of Oregon are believed to be of missing actor Charles Levin, 70, who played numerous roles on television comedies such as "Seinfeld" and "Night Court." Levin's TV credits include "Alice," "Hill Street Blues," "Doogie Howser, M.D.," "Night Court" and "Seinfeld." Levin also had roles in movies, including "The Golden Child," "Annie Hall" and "This Is Spinal Tap."

■ Houghton Mifflin Harcourt announced Monday that it had acquired a memoir by Oscar-winning filmmaker Oliver Stone. The book, currently untitled, is scheduled for fall 2020.

Johansson: 'I should be allowed to play any person'

The Washington Post

As the battle over on-screen representation continues to rage, actress Scarlett Johansson once again stepped into the crucible.

In an interview with *As If* magazine, the actress made the bold and — particularly in left-leaning Hollywood — unpopular statement that she feels political correctness is antithetical to art.

"You know, as an actor I should be allowed to play any person, or any tree, or any animal because that is my job and the requirements of my job," Johansson said. "I feel

like it's a trend in my business and it needs to happen for various social reasons, yet there are times it does get uncomfortable when it affects the art because I feel art should be free of restrictions."

"I think society would be more connected if we just allowed others to have their own feelings and not expect everyone to feel the way we do," she added.

Social media backlash was swift.

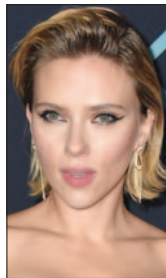
"Scarlett Johansson is a cisgender white woman with a powerful platform and no shortage of work opportunities. Trans people should play trans people. Period. It is in-

credibly disappointing that she has learned nothing and clearly does not care about the experiences of trans people," tweeted Charlotte Clymer, a transgender woman who works as the press secretary at the Human Rights Campaign.

Johansson later told *The Washington Post* in a statement through her publicist that her comments were "edited for click bait" and "widely taken out of context."

"The question I was answering in my conversation with the contemporary artist, David Salle, was about the confrontation between political correctness and art. I per-

sonally feel that, in an ideal world, any actor should be able to play any body and art, in all forms, should be immune to political correctness. That is the point I was making, albeit didn't come across that way," she said. "I recognize that in reality, there is a widespread discrepancy among my industry that favors Caucasian, cis gendered actors and that not every actor has been given the same opportunities that I have been privileged to. I continue to support, and always have, diversity in every industry and will continue to fight for projects where everyone is included."



Johansson

SHIFTING GEARS

End of the road

VW halts production of last version of its classic Beetle

By DAVID McHUGH
Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — Volkswagen halted production of the last version of its Beetle model last week at its plant in Puebla, Mexico. It's the end of the road for a vehicle that has symbolized many things over a history spanning the eight decades since 1938.

It has been a part of Germany's darkest hours as a never-realized Nazi prestige project. A symbol of Germany's postwar economic renaissance and rising middle-class prosperity. An example of globalization, sold and recognized all over the world. An emblem of the 1960s counterculture in the United States.

Above all, the car remains a landmark in design, as recognizable as the Coca-Cola bottle.

The car's original design—a rounded silhouette with seating for four or five, nearly vertical windshield and the air-cooled engine in the rear—can be traced back to Austrian engineer Ferdinand Porsche, who was hired to fulfill German dictator Adolf Hitler's project for a "people's car" that would spread auto ownership the way the Ford Model T had in the U.S.

Aspects of the car bore similarities to the Tatra T97, made in Czechoslovakia in 1937, and to sketches by Hungarian engineer Bela Barenvi published in 1934.

Mass production of what was called the KdF-Wagen, based on the acronym of the Nazi labor organization under whose auspices it was to be sold, was canceled due to World War II. Instead, the massive new plant in what was then countryside east of Hanover turned out military vehicles, using forced laborers from all over Europe under miserable conditions.

Relaunched as a civilian carmaker under supervision of the British occupation authorities, the Volkswagen factory was transferred in 1949 to the German government and the state of Lower Saxony, which still owns part of the company. By 1955, the 1 millionth Beetle — officially called the Type 1 — had rolled off the assembly line in what was now the town of Wolfsburg.

The United States became Volkswagen's most important foreign market, peaking at 563,522 cars in 1968, or 40% of production. Unconventional, sometimes humorous advertising from agency Doyle Dane Bernbach urged car buyers to "Think small."

"Unlike in West Germany, where its low price, quality and durability stood for a new postwar normality, in the United States the Beetle's characteristics lent it a profoundly unconventional air in a car culture dominated by size and showmanship," Bernhard Rieger wrote in his 2013 history, "The People's Car."

Production at Wolfsburg ended in 1978 as newer front drive models such as the Golf took over.

But the Beetle wasn't dead yet. Production went on in Mexico from 1967 until 2003 — longer than the car had been made



HECTOR VIVAS, GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Workers and managers of Volkswagen pose with the last Beetle produced during a ceremony to announce the end of production of the VW Beetle after 21 years in the market on July 10 in Cuautlancingo, Mexico.



ODED BALLYAT/APS

Volkswagen Beetles are displayed during the annual gathering of the "Beetle club" in Yakum, central Israel, in 2017.

in Germany. Nicknamed the "vochito," the car made itself at home as a rugged, Mexican-made "carro del pueblo."

The end of the Beetle comes at a turning point for Volkswagen as it rebounds from a scandal over cars rigged to cheat on diesel emissions tests. The company is gearing up for mass production of the battery-driven electric compact ID.3, a car that the company predicts will have an impact like that of the Beetle and the Golf by bringing electric mobility to a mass market.

The New Beetle — a completely new retro version built on a modified Golf platform — resurrected some of the old Beetle's cute, unconventional aura in 1998 under CEO Ferdinand Piech, Ferdinand Porsche's grandson. In 2012, the Beetle's design was made a bit sleeker.

The last of 5,961 Final Edition versions headed to a museum after ceremonies in Puebla on Wednesday to mark the end of production.



CRISTINA BAUSSA/AP

Taxi drivers gather July 9 in a neighborhood of Mexico City known colloquially as "Vocholandia" for its love of the classic Beetle, called "vocho".

Stripes

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Lt. Col. Sean Klinek, Europe commander
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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Euro/Mideast
Erik Slavin, Europe/Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9390; DSN (314)583.9350
Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81-42-552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.3830
Washington
Joseph Cacioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)202/886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.reisman.naf@gmail.com
Questions from Readers: DSN (314)583.9111
Europe
Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stripes.com
memberservices@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific
Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81-3-6385.3171; DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington
202-486-0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3002
Reader letters
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Additional contacts
stripes.com/contactus

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

Let veterans' home residents protect their possessions

Regarding the article "RI Veterans Home leadership confronts persistent problem of theft" (posted to stripes.com on June 28): Thefts aren't the only reported criminal conduct occurring at the state-run residential and nursing facility for war veterans, or the worst.

Omitted from The Providence Journal article is mention of the nature and extent of reports of abuse, neglect and other mistreatment occurring at the veterans' home, as disclosed in public records that were provided to The Journal.

Those records include reports of elderly residents being punched, shoved and slapped; multiple residents left unattended and soaked in urine in their beds for several hours while nursing assistants were watching television; a resident found "totally left neglected" during two work shifts after returning to the home from a hospital stay; another abandoned and left to sleep fully clothed sitting in his wheelchair overnight; a resident who was refused a blanket and urinal and told to "pee in the bed"; another slapped and called "fat with man boobs and a small member (referring to his penis)"; innumerable thefts of cash and other property in residents' rooms taken from wheelchair and clothing pockets, hidden in bedside drawers, and tucked under bedding while they lay asleep in their beds; money stolen from the wallet of a resident told to stand at a facility wall in his room while the theft occurred; cash taken from inside a DVD case hidden deep in a drawer in a resident's room; cash stolen from an envelope in a resident's purse in her room while she was using the bathroom; missing clothing and care packages from family

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members that had been placed in residents' rooms.

One resident was saving his money to buy new sneakers; another to play Bingo at the home.

The Journal stated it was given a two-hour tour to see "how the home addresses thefts," without further elaboration, and noted that the people running the home say "they monitor security closely" and reports of thefts "get reported to the Rhode Island State Police."

State Police records note, however, there are no surveillance cameras in the vicinity of the residents' rooms and most matters are not criminally prosecuted due to lack of evidentiary proof, despite some incidents being witnessed by supervising registered nurses.

The records further reveal that not all incidents of crime are being reported by the home to the State Police. Also, some ongoing public investigations have had because the veterans' home claimed that residents ultimately decided to have their matters handled in-house by the home.

Equally troubling is the exculpatory commentary contained in The Journal article about the routinized of thefts in

nursing facilities; expectations of theft if people "insist on" leaving their valuables in plain sight, tempting low-wage workers to steal; and the "bigger issue" being family members ripping off elderly people of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Police believe that in-room security cameras would provide an effective deterrent to criminal behavior, and a growing number of states have enacted laws allowing in-room cameras in nursing facilities rather than entrusting patient security to the whims and self-serving interests of those institutions.

The home's administration, however, will not explicitly allow residents to use cameras in their private rooms at their financial cost. Commentary by the administrator of the home, Rick Bacus, that he "probably couldn't stop veterans from installing cameras" is noncommittal and otherwise dubious. Also, I understand that at least one such self-installed camera was ordered removed.

Written communications with the Rhode Island governor, legislators and the home's administration about the problems occurring at the home have been met with disregard.

The Internet is replete with photos of cameras in residential facilities at security events at the home but apparently not so eager to meaningfully address and resolve the situation.

These veterans need our loud support for legislation allowing residents to install, use and monitor in-room security cameras to ensure their safety, healthcare and peaceful habitation at the home.

Cynthia M. Owens

Virginia Beach, Va.

Editor's note: Cynthia M. Owens is a pro bono attorney for military veterans who was quoted in the article.

The next step with N. Korea: 'Denuclearization lite'

By JAMES STARVIDS

Bloomberg

Over the past couple of weeks, there have been increasing signs that the Trump administration — and particularly President Donald Trump himself — is moderating its position on North Korea's stockpile of nuclear weapons. Gone is the demand that the U.S. will only accept complete, immediate and irreversible denuclearization. Instead, we've seen a symbolic but historic meeting between Trump and Kim Jong Un at the Demilitarized Zone, more flattering rhetoric about the North Korean dictator — the president declared the meeting an "honors" — and hints that the U.S. could accept a longer timeline in the movement toward denuclearization. What has caused this shift? And, just as importantly, would it work in military terms?

The short answer to the first question is simple: No. No serious observer would think the U.S. could win a military war with the Korean situation in general and Kim in particular would bet that the impetuous young leader would ever willingly surrender his nuclear weapons. They are obviously his best guarantee against U.S.-imposed regime change. As the certainty of this has sunk in for the Trump team, they are seeking another path to a demonstrable foreign policy "win" that can be touted in the run-up to the 2020 election.

While the ultimate shape of what might be termed "denuclearization lite" remains unclear, one can envision the general outline. For starters, the U.S. would likely send a full, verified list of weapons in North Korea's active nuclear and missile programs, with specific geographic positions identified. The U.S. could also push for a reduction in the total stockpile to a number that international inspectors could keep under permanent observation, say 50 warheads of a specified type, with no more than 10 warheads would be held in a small

number of locations, three or so, each with a technical oversight system (cameras, electronic monitors) to alert inspectors if the facilities were breached. There could be a similar plan for the launcher systems, but they would be based in different parts of the country than the warheads. All of this would be verified by international teams, which would have a mandate to inspect the facilities at any time.

In exchange, the North would receive sanctions relief and a large amount of development aid, although perhaps not of the kind Trump famously proposed for North Korea's beaches in his first meeting with Kim: "Boy, look at that view. Wouldn't that make a great condo?"

There are plenty of valid objections to such a scheme. One is that Trump wouldn't be delivering fully on the problem he has correctly identified: making sure Kim can't attack the U.S. with a nuclear weapon. On the other hand, America and its allies live under that threat from Russia and China, and it's "comfortable" with other nuclear-armed nations such as India, Israel and Pakistan.

The real question, then, is how the U.S. could mitigate the risk of a nuclear North Korea from a military perspective after it achieves this nuclear-lite deal through diplomatic means. A settling of such a deal might be of Kim actually handing all the pieces needed for deliverable nuclear weapons — with U.S. approval — it is a circumstance that can be managed militarily, through three key steps.

The first is intelligence. Currently, the U.S. has no direct visibility into the North Korean nuclear program. Putting the warheads and missiles into a small number of facilities under an international inspection regime is a big improvement, but not sufficient in itself. The U.S. can do better by working more closely with South Korea, which has a fairly good intelligence pipeline into the north.

The Pentagon and the intelligence community also need to infiltrate North Korea's cyber systems, despite the regime's efforts to remain isolated from the Internet. We'll probably rely more on the Internet. There should be no relaxing of the effort to observe North Korea by the traditional space-based satellite intelligence constellation.

A second key will be countermeasures. Increasing America's ability to counter the ballistic missile threat would reduce Kim's leverage considerably. That means developing better ground-based missile defenses, both on the Korean Peninsula and over the U.S. homeland and territories; electronic countermeasures to jam North Korean systems; offensive cyberoperations directed against not only the North's missile systems but also its electric grid; and development of directed energy weapons (aka laser beams).

Finally, there is good old-fashioned deterrence, which kept the Soviet threat at bay for decades. Deterrence is composed of capability plus credibility, meaning the adversary knows what you are capable of doing and also understands you are willing to do it. In this case, it would be the capability of the U.S. and South Korea to not only defeat North Korean forces but ultimately overthrow the regime. Giving credibility to that threat involves stepping up military exercises with South Korea and other Asian allies — some of which, unfortunately, Trump has curtailed — and being explicit on how America would react if provoked.

Trump's erratic approach toward North Korea has been a real problem, but his shifting of America's negotiating stance to reflect the reality of what is achievable through diplomacy is a good move. Increasing U.S. intelligence capabilities, countermeasures and deterrence to mitigate the long-term threat is an even better one.

James Starvids is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist.

Looking at the news

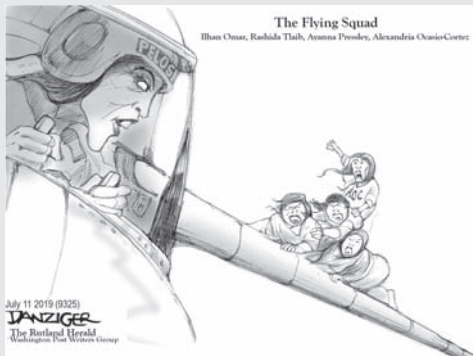
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



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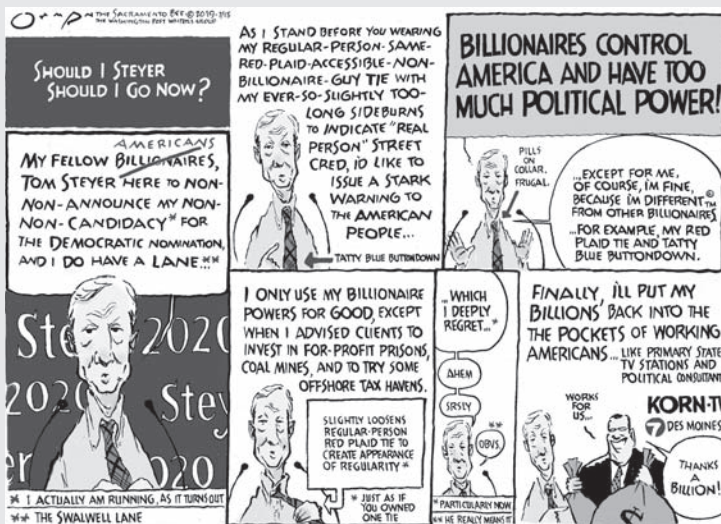
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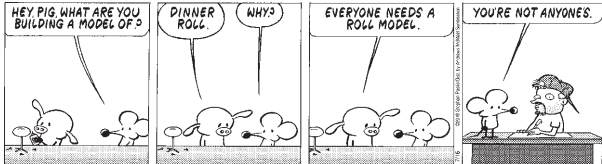
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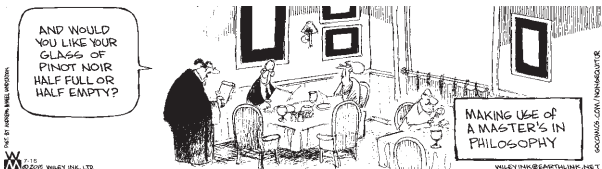
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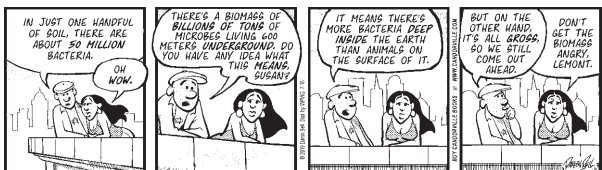
Pearls Before Swine



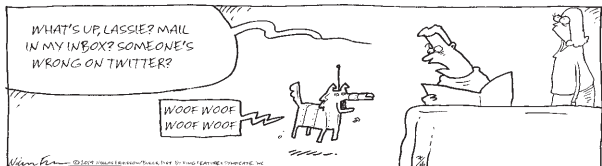
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Candorville



Carpe Diem



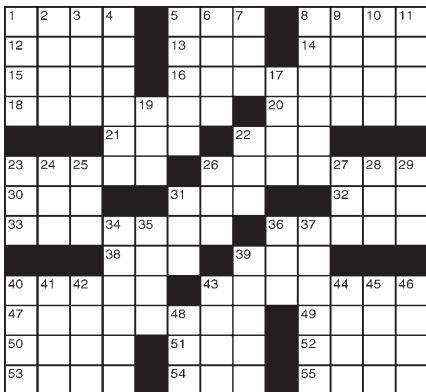
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Up for it
- 5 Occupation, for short
- 8 Cleaning cloths
- 12 Panache
- 13 Metal source
- 14 Peter Fonda's beekeeper role
- 15 Tart flavor
- 16 Monotonous
- 18 Winding
- 20 Bone (Pref.)
- 21 PC linking system
- 22 Luau bowlful
- 23 Personnel
- 26 "The Best Is Yet to Come" singer
- 30 Actor McKellen
- 31 Towboat
- 32 Understanding
- 33 Heartfelt
- 36 Magazine since 1945
- 38 Candle count
- 39 Nemesis
- 40 Mimicry
- 43 Tricky baseball pitches
- 47 Evil
- 49 "Got it"
- 50 Org.
- 51 UFO pilots
- 52 Zilch
- 53 Cracker spread
- 54 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 55 Pairs

DOWN

- 1 Understands
- 2 Jai —
- 3 "Death in Venice" author
- 4 Surround
- 5 Boatswain, casually
- 6 Showy flower
- 7 Buddhist sect
- 8 Putin's land
- 9 Oodles
- 10 Hereditary unit
- 11 Lily variety
- 17 Thug
- 19 Klutz
- 22 Pot-bellied pet
- 23 Bro's kin
- 24 — chi
- 25 New England cape
- 26 Take to court
- 27 Ring decision
- 28 Stimpy's pal
- 29 Whatever
- 31 Italian "three"
- 34 Pooch
- 35 Early birds?
- 36 Long time
- 37 Show compassion
- 39 Primary
- 40 Now, in a memo
- 41 Galileo's birthplace
- 42 "Meet Me — Louis"
- 43 Hardens
- 44 Birthright barterer
- 45 Make over
- 46 Global septet
- 48 Casual shirt

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	I	M	I	N	A	G	A	F	E	W	
O	V	E	N	O	V	A	P	O	R	E	
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Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

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KJ.mackenzie@gmail.com

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Deals

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Recalled RHP Tom Eshelman from Norfolk (IL).
OPTIONED OF U.S. Stewart to Norfolk (IL).
BOSTON RED SOX — Placed RHP Steven Wright on the 10-day IL.
DETROIT TIGERS — Options RHP Eduardo Jimenez to Toledo (IL). Reinstated RHP Victor Alcantara from the 10-day IL.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Traded RHP Homer Bailey to Oakland for INF Kevin Merrell and assigned Merrell to Northwest Arkansas (TX).
SEATTLE MARINERS — Assigned RHP Andrew Moore outright to Tacoma (WA).

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Options RHP Jake Faria and LHP Brandon McKay to Durham (IL). Recalled LHP Ryan Vragar from Durham. Sent LHP Anthony Rendon to Durham for a rehab assignment.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed LHP Clayton Kershaw on the 10-day IL. Options RHP Edwin Jackson from the 10-day IL.

National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Sent RHP Taylor Clarke to Visalia (CA) for a rehab assignment.

MILWAUKEE — Sent 3B Martin Prado to Jacksonville (FL) for a rehab assignment.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Placed RHP Tommy Thomas on the 10-day IL. Recalled catcher Ryan Rasmussen from Lehigh Valley (PA).

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Sent RHP Ryan Schimpf to Erie (PA) for a rehab assignment.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Options RHP Ray Black to Sacramento (CA). Recalled RHP Tyler Beebe from Richmond (CA).

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
DETROIT RED WINGS — Signed D. Moritz to a three-year, \$15-million contract.

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Signed D. Tverberg to a three-year, \$15-million contract.

Cycling

Tour de France
Sunday
Brussels, France
Stage 15
170.5 kilometer (106-mile) hilly ride from Saint-Etienne to Brussels, with an early Category 1 climb and a pair of Category 2s over the finish line.

1. Daryl Impey, South Africa, Mitchelton-Scott, 4:03:12.
2. Simon Clarke, Slovenia, Lotto Soudal, same time.
3. Oliver Naesen, Belgium, AG2R La Mondiale, same time.

4. Nicolas Roche, Ireland, Sunweb, 14:26.
5. Marc Sorensen, Belgium, Lotto Soudal, 15:01.
6. Iwan Cuatrecasas, Spain, Bora-Hansgrohe, 15:01.

7. Simon Clarke, Australia, EF Education First, same time.
8. Anthony Delaplace, France, Arkas-Samsic, 2:42.
9. Jesus Herrada, Spain, Corendon, 2:46.
10. Roman Sigurdsson, France, Total Direct Energie, 2:46.

11. Lukas Poeschl, Austria, Bora-Hansgrohe, 3:26.
12. David Boasson Haugen, Norway, Dimension Data, 7:24.
13. Tony Martin, Germany, Jumbo-Visma, same time.

Overall Standings (After nine stages)
1. Julian Alaphilippe, France, Decauville-QuickStep, 38:37:36.
2. Thibaut Pinot, France, Groupama-FDJ, 38:40:12.
3. George Bennett, New Zealand, Jumbo-Visma, 1:10:10.
4. Geraint Thomas, Britain, Ineos, 1:12:12.

5. Egan Bernal, Colombia, Ineos, 1:16:16.
6. Steven Kruijswijk, Netherlands, Jumbo-Visma, 1:27:17.
7. Egan Bernal, Colombia, EF Education First, 1:38:13.
8. Jakob Fuglsang, Denmark, Astana, 1:42:12.
9. Emanuel Buchmann, Germany, Bora-Hansgrohe, 1:45:15.

Golf

John Deere Classic

Sunday
AT TPC Deere Run

Purse: \$6 million

Yardage: 7,268; Par 71

Final Round

D. Fritzel, \$1,080,000 66-68-65-64-263 -21

A. Lundy, \$648,000 65-67-67-66-266 -18

Scott Dunlap, \$504,000 67-66-67-67-267 -17

C. Howell III, \$494,250 68-65-65-68-268 -16

Ben Huh, \$314,250 67-67-67-67-269 -15

V. Taylor, \$194,250 68-66-68-68-268 -16

Lucas Glover, \$133,000 67-64-69-69-265 -15

Bill Haas, \$133,000 66-68-64-71-269 -15

J. Mennig, \$133,000 67-67-67-67-269 -15

West Roach, \$133,000 67-67-67-67-269 -15

S. Saunders, \$133,000 68-67-67-68-269 -15

Roger Sloan, \$133,000 67-67-67-68-269 -15

Victor Hovland, \$90,000 68-67-68-68-270 -14

C. Tringale, \$90,000 66-66-67-73-270 -14

Bud Cauley, \$70,500 67-67-68-69-271 -13

Ryan Moore, \$70,500 67-67-67-72-271 -13

Ryan Palmer, \$70,500 65-71-68-67-271 -13

Sam Ryder, \$70,500 67-67-69-68-271 -13

Scott Stallings, \$70,500 67-67-69-69-271 -13

Sam Ryder, \$70,500 67-67-69-68-271 -13

A. Svensson, \$70,500 70-68-68-68-271 -13

Brendon Todd, \$70,500 66-71-67-67-271 -13

Robert Caplan, \$42,600 68-69-69-69-272 -12

Tyler Duncan, \$42,600 69-69-71-63-272 -12

Ben Huh, \$42,600 67-67-71-71-272 -12

Beau Hossler, \$42,600 67-68-70-67-272 -12

Sungjae Lee, \$42,600 67-68-70-72-272 -12

Nash Layley, \$42,600 67-71-69-69-272 -12

Sepp Straka, \$42,600 70-67-64-71-272 -12

Daniel Berger, \$33,150 66-67-67-73-271 -11

F. Jacobson, \$33,150 67-67-69-67-273 -11

Nick Taylor, \$33,150 67-69-67-71-273 -11

Greg Gerdt, \$33,150 67-69-67-71-273 -11

Zack Johnson, \$24,000 67-73-69-66-274 -10

Martin Laird, \$24,000 65-69-70-70-274 -10

Samuel Daley, \$24,000 67-69-69-69-274 -10

Pat Perez, \$24,000 69-69-68-68-274 -10

M. Thompson, \$24,000 67-68-68-68-274 -10

J. Vages, \$24,000 67-68-68-68-274 -10

J. Wagner, \$24,000 67-67-67-70-275 -9

Matthew Wolff, \$24,000 67-67-67-70-275 -9

B. Burgeon, \$15,620 69-65-73-68-275 -9

Ben Huh, \$15,620 67-67-67-70-275 -9

Anirban Lahiri, \$15,620 74-68-68-68-275 -9

O. Schieppati, \$15,620 67-70-68-72-275 -9

R. Werners, \$15,620 67-67-67-70-275 -9

Camron Davis, \$13,960 67-67-67-70-275 -9

Ben Huh, \$13,960 67-67-67-70-275 -9

H. Varner III, \$13,960 67-67-67-70-275 -9

Ryan Blum, \$13,960 67-67-67-70-275 -9

Luke Donald, \$13,440 68-68-70-71-277 -8

Tom Lovatelli, \$13,440 67-68-70-71-277 -8

Pat Perez, \$13,440 67-68-71-71-277 -8

Zach Sacher, \$13,440 65-74-70-68-277 -7

J. Henry, \$13,020 69-67-71-72-276 -7

Seamus Power, \$13,020 69-67-69-69-278 -6

Seamus Power, \$13,020 69-67-69-69-278 -6

Bill Hurray III, \$12,720 67-67-73-73-279 -6

Willie Kim, \$12,720 67-67-70-71-279 -6

Kelly Kraft, \$12,480 69-67-71-72-278 -6

Austin Cook, \$12,240 70-67-71-72-281 -3

Joey Testa, \$12,240 70-67-70-72-281 -3

John Senden, \$12,000 67-71-71-74-283 -1

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Gene Sauers, \$23,240 76-71-71-69-287 +7

P. Broadhurst, \$20,650 73-71-71-71-288 +8

Marcus Dawson, \$20,650 72-69-71-71-288 +8

Paul Goggin, \$20,650 73-70-70-69-288 +8

A. McKenney, \$20,650 70-74-70-70-288 +8

Tom Burton, \$16,856 74-70-71-71-290 +10

Joe Duran, \$16,856 75-69-73-73-290 +10

Steph Jones, \$16,856 71-75-70-74-291 +11

Scott Dunlap, \$16,856 77-71-70-71-291 +11

Steph Jones, \$16,856 71-75-70-74-291 +11

John Huston, \$13,150 76-73-69-73-291 +11

Jeff Magner, \$13,150 71-74-75-71-291 +11

Scott Dunlap, \$13,150 77-71-70-71-291 +11

Corey Pavin, \$13,150 75-70-73-73-291 +11

Ben Huh, \$13,150 75-70-73-73-291 +11

Barry Bryant, \$9,520 72-75-72-72-292 +12

M. Calacavaca, \$9,520 72-75-72-72-292 +12

Tom Pernice Jr., \$9,520 71-73-71-71-292 +12

David Frost, \$5,440 78-71-72-74-294 +14

Dan Davis, \$5,440 73-75-69-72-293 +13

Larry Mize, \$3,920 76-75-70-73-293 +13

John Cook, \$5,440 71-73-72-72-294 +14

Ben Huh, \$5,440 78-71-72-74-294 +14

Jeff Suman, \$5,440 76-70-75-75-294 +14

Allen Fies, \$5,440 75-69-70-75-295 +15

Tom Gillis, \$5,440 74-75-74-74-295 +15

Lin Forness, \$5,320 76-72-76-76-297 +17

Russ Cochran, \$4,760 76-72-74-74-298 +18

Willie Lee, \$4,760 72-78-75-73-298 +18

Esteban Ybanez, \$4,760 76-70-73-73-299 +19

Rocco Mediate, \$4,060 76-73-73-73-299 +19

Ben Huh, \$4,060 76-73-73-73-299 +19

Jerry Smith, \$3,500 75-74-72-70-300 +20

Chris Francis, \$3,080 75-76-73-73-301 +21

Willie Lee, \$3,080 74-75-78-75-302 +22

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Willie Lee, \$3,080 74-75-78-75-302 +22

Auto racing

Honda Indy Toronto

Sunday
At Streets of Toronto

Start position in parentheses

1. (1) Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes, 52 laps, 1:21:08.452, 26 points.

2. (2

WIMBLEDON/NHL



WILL OLIVER/AP

Roger Federer, right, shakes hands with Novak Djokovic after the men's singles final at Wimbledon on Sunday.

Federer just misses ninth Wimbledon title

By HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Roger Federer won more points than Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final.

Federer was the first of the pair to come within a point of taking the championship Sunday, too. Had two such chances in the fifth set, even.

Indeed, Federer dominated the historic match in nearly every statistical way. More than twice as many aces. More than twice as many breaks of serve. Nearly twice as many total winners.

And yet, in the only category that matters, the final score, Federer barely came up on the short end, losing 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 13-12 (3) to defending champion Djokovic.

By ceding all three sets that went to a tiebreaker, including —for the first time at Wimbledon —the fifth, Federer was denied a ninth title at the All England Club and 21st Grand Slam trophy overall, which both would have extended men's records he already holds.

"For now it hurts, and it should, like every loss does here at Wimbledon," said Federer, who is now 8-4 in finals at the grass-court major, with three of those losses against Djokovic, including in 2014 and 2015.

As for how he will go about bouncing back from this sort of a heartbreaking defeat, Federer replied: "I think it's a mindset. I'm very strong at being able to move on, because I don't want to be depressed about actually an amazing tennis match."

That is was. They played for nearly five hours, making it the longest final

at Wimbledon, where they've been holding this tournament since the 1870s. It surpassed the old mark established by the 2008 final, which Federer also lost in a fifth set, that one against Rafael Nadal.

One key difference with this one: The All England Club changed its rules to adopt deciding-set tiebreakers for the first time at 12-all.

"I'm the loser both times," Federer said, "so that's the only similarity I see."

He wound up with 218 points to Djokovic's 204.

Federer also led in aces, 25-10; service breaks, 7-3; total winners, 94-54.

Did a lot of damage at the net, too, winning 13 of 15 serve-and-volley points and 51 of 65 when he moved forward at all.

"Most of the match, I was on the back foot, actually. I was defending. He was dictating the play," Djokovic said. "I just tried to fight and find a way when it mattered the most, which is what happened."

After Federer went up a break at 8-7 in the last set, he served for the victory. He held two championship points at 40-15 and didn't convert either one.

The match would go on for another 45 minutes and Federer would never get that close to winning again.

"Definitely tough," Federer said, "to have those chances."

On top of everything else, Federer also was stopped from becoming, less than a month away from his 38th birthday, the oldest man to win a major championship in the professional era.

"I hope I give some other people a chance to believe that, at 37, it's not over yet," Federer said.

Convincing Hall to stay might be a Devil of a task

By STEPHEN WHYNO

Associated Press

After the New Jersey Devils acquired P.K. Subban, Taylor Hall texted Ray Shero a green checkmark.

"Like, 'Check that box off,'" Shero said. "I guess that's good."

The Devils have a much longer checklist to complete to convince Hall to re-sign and not leave as a free agent next summer. There is no rush from either side on negotiating an extension for the 2018 NHL MVP, and as much offseason work as Shero has done to improve the roster, the process will likely take into next season for Hall to see if New Jersey is actually a place he wants to be for the long term.

"You want to play on the best team possible, and I've played nine seasons in the NHL and only won one playoff game," Hall said. "You want to be on a team that's not only a playoff contender but a Stanley Cup contender every year because I only have so many more years left in this league and so many more chances to win a Stanley Cup. It hasn't even come close yet. I kind of want to make up for lost time, but at the same time want to be smart with everything that's going on."

New Jersey traded for a top-pairing defenseman in Subban, won the draft lottery to select center Jack Hughes first overall and signed winger Wayne Simmonds.

"This is a team that's (trending) up, getting better and better," Simmonds said. "They've added some pieces including myself this offseason. Obviously P.K. and Jack Hughes. There's a lot of young talent. Definitely really excited to be part of it."

After a disappointing season — Hall missed half of it with a knee injury and New Jersey finished third last in the league — Shero understood the All-Star winger wanted more talent around him.

"Obviously some of the things that we've done prove that we want to improve the hockey team not just for Taylor Hall but for our team," Shero said. "My job is to obviously build the best team I can for the short and long term and also when it comes to dealing with players and relationships to sit down with them and explain to them as to what we're doing and I want them to be aware of it."

Shero asked Hall what he thought of Subban before making the move to get the 2013 Norris Trophy winner and got a resounding vote of confidence. Even before New Jersey signed Simmonds, Hall gave the Devils' upgrades a thumbs up.

"I've always liked it in New Jersey," Hall said. "That's never changed," Hall said. "I think it adds to the talent level, the skill level of our team, and as a player in the offseason that's what you want to see. It's exciting. We're going to have



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

New Jersey left wing Taylor Hall celebrates after scoring a goal on Dec. 21, 2018. The Devils are doing all they can to make sure Hall re-signs long term rather than leaving in free agency next summer. They traded for P.K. Subban, won the draft lottery to select center Jack Hughes first overall and signed winger Wayne Simmonds.

‘Obviously some of the things that we’ve done prove that we want to improve the hockey team not just for Taylor Hall but for our team.’

Ray Shero

New Jersey Devils GM

more than a couple new faces next year. It's important that we have a good start and all that stuff. Just injecting some new blood into the team is going to be really good."

No single player is more important to the Devils' success than Hall, who carried them into the playoffs two seasons ago with 93 points and whose injury derailed any hopes of contending in 2018-19. The 27-year-old who spent his first six NHL seasons in Edmonton doesn't want to commit until he thinks the mix in New Jersey could be enough to win a championship.

Maybe that's why Hall talked well before the start of the regular season about the Devils getting off to a hot start. Winning on the ice is more important than winning the offseason when it comes to Hall's future.

"It's a big decision for Taylor," Shero said. "It's a big decision for the team here. Both sides need the

information to have a real fruitful dialogue that's meaningful, and that's been the relationship we've had with Taylor since Day One, so that hasn't changed."

Subban said the Devils "have to get (Hall) signed" because he's a go-to player. Based on the \$81.5 million, seven-year contract the cross-river rival New York Rangers just gave winger Artemi Panarin, it's realistically to think Hall could command \$10 million or more a season no matter where he signs.

In-depth negotiations are yet to come, even though money shouldn't be an impediment to the Devils locking up Hall for the remainder of his prime and more.

"We're both on the same page and both groups have been on the same page," Shero said. "I don't have the crystal ball as to when or how or what the story will be, but I think we'll know it when we get to it."

NBA

Frenetic offseason finally slowing down

League totally reshaped since Raptors' title win

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

They'll hand out T-shirts to the Summer League winners following the championship game between Memphis and Minnesota in Las Vegas on Monday night, and then things will finally slow down a bit in the NBA.

Maybe.

And probably not for long.

It's been a hectic month since Toronto won the NBA championship and the so-called offseason commenced. Already this summer, 18 current and former All-Stars have changed franchises, and that number will rise to 19 if Vince Carter finds a new home for his final season. Recent NBA Finals MVPs Kawhi Leonard, Kevin Durant and Andre Iguodala all were among those on the move.

And another three past finals MVPs — Dwyane Wade, Dirk Nowitzki and Tony Parker — all retired. So when next season begins, very little will look the same.

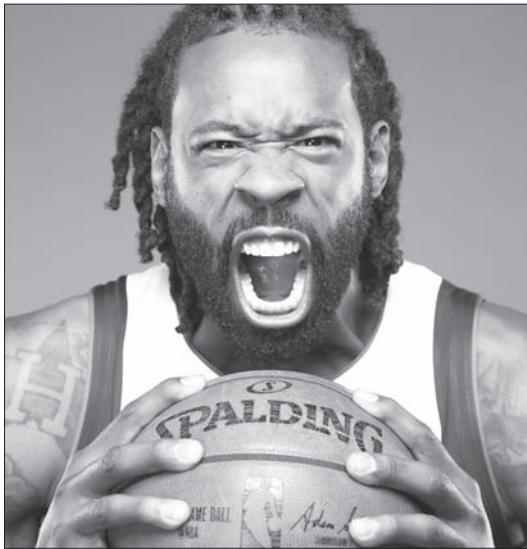
"I think there's going to be a lot of parity," Brooklyn coach Kenny Atkinson said. "That's my gut."

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver expected this summer to be loaded with player movement, and wasn't complaining about so many big names — Durant, Leonard, Chris Paul, Russell Westbrook, Anthony Davis, Paul George, Kyrie Irving, Al Horford, Jimmy Butler and many more — needing to file change-of-address cards.

"At the end of the day, it's positive for the league," Silver said. "I will say, though, I'm mindful of this notion of balance of power, and I think it applies in many different ways. An appropriate balance of power between the teams and the players ... at the end of the day, you want to make sure you have a league where every team is in a position to compete."

There were some clear winners in free agency: Brooklyn (who got Durant and Irving), the Los Angeles Clippers (who got George and Leonard) and the Los Angeles Lakers (who got Davis) were among them. It could be argued that the Oklahoma City Thunder won as well — no, they won't be as good this season as they were this past season after trading George and Westbrook, but general manager Sam Presti has enough draft picks now to enjoy flexibility for years.

The losers are clear as well: Toronto lost Leonard and Danny Green and Golden



JIM COVSEY/AP

Center DeAndre Jordan, pictured, will join guard Kyrie Irving and forward Kevin Durant as part of the new-look Brooklyn Nets.

State lost Durant, so last season's finalists certainly aren't favorites to be this season's finalists. It's also easy to say that New York lost after coming up empty on the big-name free agents, but the Knicks got plenty of good players on deals that ensure the team will have money again next summer.

So now what?

Any NBA withdrawal will really only last about three weeks, until roughly three dozen players return to Las Vegas for USA Basketball's training camp leading up to the FIBA World Cup in China that starts on Aug. 31.

San Antonio's Gregg Popovich is coaching the Americans, assisted by Golden State's Steve Kerr, Atlanta's Lloyd Pierce and Villanova's Jay Wright. Zion Williamson, knee permitting, may take part in

camp as one of the young players brought in to help the more-established pros get ready. If Williamson impresses, he may get a shot at joining the varsity club.

Also, this season's NBA schedule is likely to come around the second week of August, if recent years are any indicator.

Who's left?

Plenty of free agents remain unsigned, and that'll still be the case even in September as training camps get ready to open.

It's still hard to see the Thunder keeping Paul, acquired in the Westbrook trade to Houston, so expect at least one more blockbuster trade before too long. Or can a player who is owed \$121 million over the next three seasons be bought out? Stay tuned.

Carter wants to come back for a 22nd NBA season, which would be a league record. If he gets into a game after Jan. 1,

"I think there's going to be a lot of parity. That's my gut."

Kenny Atkinson
Brooklyn Nets coach

he'll also become the first NBA player to appear in four different decades.

Jamal Crawford remains out there as well, and contenders should be calling him.

Loaded West

Philadelphia, Boston, Brooklyn, Indiana and Miami all likely got better in the East. Milwaukee kept most of its team that won an NBA-best 60 games.

The East will be good.

The West might be bloody.

The Clippers, the Lakers, Houston, Golden State, Denver, Utah, Portland and San Antonio could end up as the eight play-off teams in the Western Conference. It's plausible; they're probably the most realistic eight picks right now. But at least four of those teams — most of them with superstar duos that are all the rage now — won't be in the second round of next season's playoffs.

Longevity award

For now, Golden State's Stephen Curry is the longest-tenured player under contract to one team. He's entering his 11th season with the Warriors.

With Nowitzki (21 seasons with Dallas) retired, Mike Conley (12 seasons with Memphis) traded to Utah and Westbrook (11 seasons with Oklahoma City) traded to Houston, no current player has had a longer uninterrupted run with one team than Curry.

But if Udonis Haslem re-signs with Miami, it'll be his 17th season with the Heat.

The numbers

Including the \$196 million extension for Portland's Damian Lillard, a \$170 million extension for Denver's Jamal Murray and another in-the-works \$170 million extension for Philadelphia's Ben Simmons, NBA teams have committed to spend roughly \$4 billion in new deals that were struck in the last three weeks alone.

And that's with 100 more signings to come, at least.

That \$4 billion figure is twice what the total payroll was a decade ago for every team in the league, combined.

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NFL SCOREBOARD

American League										National League														
East Division					West Division					East Division					West Division									
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB						
New York	59	32	.648		Tampa Bay	50	43	.538	10	Los Angeles	47	50	.485	14½	San Diego	45	48	.484	16	San Francisco	43	49	.467	17½
Boston	35	57	.379	25	Toronto	35	57	.379	25½	Seattle	39	58	.402	21½	San Francisco	43	49	.467	17½	Los Angeles	47	50	.485	14½
New York	30	62	.329	30	Minnesota	51	40	.630	—	Chicago	42	49	.462	14½	St. Louis	32	64	.333	27	Kansas City	32	64	.333	27
Toronto	35	57	.379	25½	Chicago	42	49	.462	14½	St. Louis	32	64	.333	27	Kansas City	32	64	.333	27	Detroit	28	68	.292	32
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MLB

Braves sweep Padres

By **BERNIE WILSON**
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Atlanta Braves All-Star rookie Mike Soroka remains on a brilliant run, helped along by a mighty swing by Freddie Freeman.

Soroka struck out a career-high nine to win his 10th straight decision and Freeman hit a three-run homer to break a scoreless tie in the eighth inning as the Braves beat the San Diego Padres 4-1 Sunday for a three-game sweep.

The NL East-leading Braves have won seven of eight.

Soroka (10-1) lost his season debut on April 18 against Arizona but has won each of his past 10 decisions since April 24, a span of 15 starts.

The 21-year-old, who outpitched fellow Canadian Cal Quantrill, received high praise from Freeman and catcher Brian McCann.

Asked about Soroka being in the thick of the NL Cy Young Award race, Freeman said: "Who cares about the Rookie of the Year? I think he's running it for Cy Young, 10-1 with a 2 (2.24 ERA), what else would you have to do? He's pretty special. For him to be only 21 and doing that, that's what makes it even more special to me."

Soroka got Sunday's decision thanks to Freeman's shot deep to right field off Trey Wingenter (1-2) with two outs in the eighth. Matt Joyce pinch-hit for Soroka with one out in the inning and singled to right. Ronald Acuna Jr. followed with a single to right. Danny Swanson struck out before Freeman, who had been 0-for-11 in the series, hit his 24th homer. Josh Donaldson walked, stole second and scored on Nick Markakis' single to center.

Scoreboard

FROM PAGE 28

Cardinals 5, Diamondbacks 2

Arizona	ab	r	b	h	St. Louis	ab	r	b	h
Leandro Jr.	2	0	2	1	McCrort 3b	3	0	0	1
K.Marte cf	2	0	0	0	Munoz ss	4	1	1	1
E.Scor 3b	5	0	0	0	Goldschmidt 1b	4	2	2	2
C.Winter 1b	4	0	0	0	O'Neill lf	4	0	0	1
A.Jones rf	4	1	2	0	DeFur rf	4	0	0	1
A.Lewis lf	4	0	0	0	Wong 2b	4	0	0	0
Almed 5b	3	1	2	0	Kutznier c	3	0	0	0
Vargas 2b	0	0	0	0	Bader cf	0	0	0	0
Godley 2b	0	0	0	0	Wingerth p	0	1	0	1
Lamb ph	1	0	0	0	Edman ph	1	0	0	0
Greene p	2	0	0	0	Leone p	0	0	0	0
Chafin p	0	0	0	0	Brebbia ph	0	0	0	0
Chavez 2b	2	0	0	0	C.Martin p	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	2	2	2	Totals	30	5	9	5

Arizona	IP	H	R	BB	SO
Greinke L10-4	6	8	5	5	16
Chafin	1/3	0	0	0	0
Godley	1/3	1	0	0	0
St. Louis	IP	H	R	BB	SO
Wainwright W6-7	7	4	0	0	17
Leone	1	1	0	0	1
Brebbia	1/3	2	2	1	1
Wainwright S-5-7	0	0	0	0	0
HPB—by Wainwright (Locastoro). T—2:52. A—43,439 (45,538).					

Rays almost perfect against O's

Ninth-inning single breaks up bid at combined perfect game

By **DAVID GINSBURG**
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Zipping through the Baltimore Orioles' lineup with incredible ease, Ryan Yarbrough was blissfully unaware of his role in a potentially historic performance until the Tampa Bay Rays left-hander was deep into the finest outing of his baseball career.

After taking over for Ryne Stanek in the third inning Sunday, Yarbrough was poised to be part of the major leagues' first combined perfect game.

"I was so locked in, not until I went out there in the eighth to warm up and I heard a kid yell, 'Don't blow it,' did I realize what the situation was," Yarbrough said.

Hanser Alberto beat the shift with a lead-off opposite-field single in the ninth inning, wrecking history in the making and taking some of the edge off Tampa Bay's 4-1 victory. Mixing a cut fastball with a sinker and a deceptive changeup, Yarbrough was literally unhittable — until the ninth.

"Man, that would have been cool, but I can't get upset about the hit against the shift," Yarbrough said. "It has helped me so much in the past."

Tampa Bay's try for the combo perfecto came two days after a pair of Los Angeles Angels pitchers teamed up for a no-hitter while wearing the jerseys of late teammate Tyler Skaggs.

Though they've only got a total of 26 wins between them, Stanek and Yarbrough sure looked like All-Stars on this day.

"Both of them were really impressive," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "Stanek was in the zone and established pitches, and Yarbrough came in and picked right up. A fun game to be part of."

The bid for perfection ended when the right-handed hitting Alberto — batting around .400 against lefties — pushed a grounder to the



JULIO CORTIZ/AP

Tampa Bay Rays pitchers Ryan Yarbrough (48) and Ryne Stanek embrace after Sunday's game in Baltimore. The two pitchers had a combined perfect game through eight innings, until the Orioles' Hanser Alberto hit a single on Yarbrough's first pitch in the ninth.

right side, precisely where the second baseman usually stands.

"Finally, we get it," Alberto said. "We were trying to get the whole game. He was pitching really good, a really good performance, pitching in and out."

Stevie Wilkerson followed with a single, and an RBI single by Anthony Santander off Oliver Drake enabled Baltimore to break up the shutout.

Emilio Pagan struck out Trey Mancini for his sixth save, and the Rays followed with an obligatory celebration that could have been far more enthusiastic had the team completed

the perfect game.

"See if we can do it again next time," Cash said with a grin.

The franchise's only no-hitter was on July 26, 2010, by Matt Garza against Detroit.

It's been a tough season for Baltimore, but on this day the struggling team at least avoided making 27 outs without getting a man on base.

"I saw a little frustration from our guys, which is OK. They're showing some emotion about being embarrassed," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said. "You're just hoping and wishing somebody is going to get a hit."

Roundup

Verlander, Altuve lead Astros over Rangers

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Justin Verlander shook off a shaky first inning with the help of his rookie shortstop.

The result was a four-game series split for the Houston Astros as they felt like much more.

The eight-time All-Star followed a two-run first inning with five no-hit innings and Jose Altuve hit Houston's franchise-record ninth grand slam of the season as the Astros beat the Rangers 12-4 on Sunday.

Texas' first inning ended when Astros rookie shortstop Myles Straw kept Rougheed Odor's RBI single in the infield and threw out Nomar Mazara trying to score.

Verlander (11-4) gave up four hits, all singles, and struck out seven. He retired his last 15 batters following a leadoff walk in the second inning as the Astros won their second straight after losing the series' first two games. Verlander didn't allow a home run for the first time since June 6.



DAVID KENT/AP

Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander didn't allow a home run in Houston's 12-4 win over the Rangers on Sunday in Arlington, Texas. Verlander has given up a major league high 26 homers this season, including 12 in his previous five starts.

Dodgers 7, Red Sox 4 (12)

Max Muncy drew a bases-loaded walk and Alex Verdugo had an RBI single during a three-run 12th inning, and visiting Los Angeles beat Boston.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 2: Masahiro Tanaka pitched six strong innings as host New York beat Toronto.

Phillies 4, Nationals 3: Maikel Franco homered with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning and Philadelphia avoided a sweep by visiting Washington.

Indians 4, Twins 3: Carlos Santana hit a solo home run that broke a seventh-inning tie as host Cleveland avoided a sweep against Angels-leading Minnesota.

Angels 6, Mariners 3: At Anaheim, Calif., rookie Matt Thaiss hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth, and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep.

Athletics 3, White Sox 2: Chad Pinder scored all the way from first base when White Sox shortstop Jose Rondon made a throwing error trying to start a double play in the ninth inning and host

Oakland beat Chicago.

Rockies 10, Reds 9: At Denver, Ryan McMahon singled, doubled, tripled and drove in three runs to lead Colorado.

Mets 6, Marlins 2: Robinson Cano homered for the second consecutive game, helping New York beat host Miami.

Giants 8, Brewers 3: Tyler Beede pitched effectively into the seventh inning, had two hits and drove in the go-ahead run in San Francisco's win over host Milwaukee.

Cardinals 5, Diamondbacks 2: Paul Goldschmidt homered, Adam Wainwright pitched seven scoreless innings, and St. Louis held on to beat visiting Arizona.

Tigers 12, Royals 8: Jeimer Candelario hit a bases-clearing double and Gordon Beckham added a two-run homer during a seven-run third inning, and Detroit beat host Kansas City.

Cubs 8, Pirates 3: Jason Heyward, Albert Almora Jr. and Kyle Schwarber hit home runs and Chicago completed a three-game sweep of visiting Pittsburgh.

BOXING/SPORTS BRIEFS

4 division champ Whitaker dies; hit by car in Virginia

By TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press

Pernell Whitaker, an Olympic gold medalist and four division champion who was regarded as one of the greatest defensive fighters ever, has died after being hit by a car in Virginia. He was 55.

Police in Virginia Beach said the former fighter was hit by a car Sunday night. The driver of the car remained on the scene, and police said they were investigating the circumstances of the death.

Sweet Pea was Whitaker's nickname, and it fit perfectly. He was a master of getting hit and not getting hit, a southpaw who slipped in and out of the pocket and rarely gave an opponent an opportunity to land a clean shot.

Whitaker won a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles — one of the U.S. champions that year — and made his pro debut on national television. He advanced quickly, and was fighting for a major title by his 17th fight, a loss to Jose Luis Ramirez that he would avenge the next year.

But Whitaker was also known as the victim of one of the worst decisions in boxing, a draw that allowed Julio Cesar Chavez to remain unbeaten in their welterweight showdown before a crowd of more than 60,000 at the Alamodome in San Antonio in 1993.

Four years later, Whitaker was on the losing end of another difficult decision against Oscar De La Hoya in Las Vegas, a fight many ringsters thought he had won.

"When you see the list of greatest boxing robberies in history they were both No. 1 and No. 2 on the list," said Kathy Duva, his longtime promoter. "And every list of top 10 fighters of all time he was on, too."

Whitaker was a champion in four weight classes, winning his first one with a 1989 decision over Greg Haugen at lightweight, in a professional career that spanned 17 years. He finished with a record of 40-4-1 and was a first-ballot selection into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

His style was unique and it was effective, a hit-and-not-be-hit strategy that was later adopted by a rising young fighter named Floyd Mayweather Jr. Whitaker and Mayweather never met in the ring, but Whitaker did win a decision over Mayweather's uncle, Roger, in 1987.

Still, it was two controversial decisions — one a draw, the other a loss — that may have defined his career more than anything.

The first came against Chavez, the Mexican great who was unbeaten in 87 fights when he and Whitaker met in a highly anticipated fight in San Antonio.

Whitaker came out in his trade-



DONNA CONNOR/AP

Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker, right, delivers a right to challenger Jake Rodriguez during their bout in Atlantic City on Nov. 18, 1995. Whitaker died after he was hit by a car in Virginia. He was 55. Police in Virginia Beach on Monday said Whitaker was a pedestrian when struck by the car Sunday night.

mark style, confusing Chavez and frustrating the Mexican champion. Chavez stalked Whitaker throughout the fight, but Whitaker wasn't there to be found for the most part, and when he traded with Chavez he seemed to get the better of the Mexican. Ringside statistics showed Whitaker landing 31 punches to 220 for Chavez, while throwing 153 more punches.

But when the decision came down, it was a draw that was criticized throughout boxing.

"He would stand in the pocket and make everybody miss and frustrate the hell out of them," Duva said. "He said it was the most beautiful feeling in the world, to hit the other guy and not get hit."

Whitaker would go on to lose his next mega fight against De La Hoya, despite bloodying his opponent and seemingly out-boxing him over 12 rounds in their welterweight title fight. A poll of ringside writers showed the majority thought Whitaker won, and

he thought so, too.

"Of course (I won) but that really doesn't matter," Whitaker said. "As long as the world saw it, then the people can say who won the fight. I should have gotten 10 out of 12 rounds. It was a shutout. For 12 rounds, he took punishment, he took a beating. He can have the title but we know who the best fighter is."

Whitaker's last big fight came near the end of his career, when Felix Trinidad scored a unanimous decision in their welterweight title fight at Madison Square Garden. He would fight only once more before retiring, and later worked as a trainer for fighters in the Virginia Beach area.

Duva, whose Main Events company promoted all his fights, remembered Whitaker as being as sweet as his nickname. She said he was generous to a fault with a large group of family members, buying a house for many of them to live in before losing it after he retired from boxing.

Whitaker made millions in the ring — \$6 million for the De La Hoya fight alone — but Duva said he had little left in the end.

"He wasn't a spender. He was very modest," she said. "But he was supporting an awful lot of people for a long time."

A native of Norfolk, Whitaker battled alcohol problems throughout his adult life, Duva said. He also served time in prison after violating his probation in 2003 on a conviction for cocaine possession.

But in recent years Whitaker had been happy going to boxing events and meeting fans and signing autographs. He was supposed to be a part of the Manny Pacquiao-Keith Thurman fight night Saturday in Las Vegas, where he was going to be honored as a boxing legend.

"For years he wouldn't do those things," Duva said. "He found out that it was great, everybody was telling him how much they loved him and what a great fighter he was."

Briefly

Pagenaud wins his third, Rossi tightens title race

Associated Press

TORONTO — Simon Pagenaud won his third race of the season and Alexander Rossi tightened the championship race with Josef Newgarden in IndyCar's Sunday race through the streets of Toronto.

The win on the streets around Exhibition Place is the first for Pagenaud this year away from Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The Frenchman won the Indy 500 and the road course race at the speedway to save his job with Team Penske.

Pagenaud had to save fuel in the waning laps to hold off reigning series champion Scott Dixon. But Penske teammate Will Power caused a caution on the final lap and Pagenaud was able to coast to the finish in his Chevrolet.

"I was confident all weekend. I never had a doubt," said Pagenaud, who started from the pole and paced nearly every practice session. "We were only focused on ourselves. I never really looked at who was behind. We were just focused on getting the car where we wanted it to be."

"Those days are the best. There are a lot of bad days in racing, but those sweet days make up for it."

Dixon's runner-up finish denied Chip Ganassi Racing a weekend sweep. Ganassi got his first NASCAR win of the season Saturday night with Kurt Busch in Kentucky.

Rossi finished third, one spot ahead of IndyCar points leader Newgarden. The two began the race separated by just seven points and Rossi cut the deficit to four points.

"We didn't think we had a first-place car really at any point this weekend," Rossi said. "The fact that we were able to put it in the top five was a good thing."

Peloton splits, Pinot loses time

ALBI, France — Tour de France rookie Wout Van Aert won a sprint to the line while Julian Alaphilippe kept the yellow jersey after contenders got trapped in an echelon in the final kilometers of Stage 10 on Monday.

A day before the first rest day, cross-



MARK BLINCH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Simon Pagenaud drives to first place at the Honda Indy race in Toronto on Sunday.

winds caused the peloton to stretch and break up during the last 35 kilometers of the 217.5-kilometer trek from Saint-Fleur to Albi in southwestern France.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas reached the finish line in the main pack but Frenchman Thibaut Pinot and other favorites were caught off guard and lost time.

Pinot was in a group including Rigoberto Uran, Jakob Fuglsang and Richie Porte that lost 1 minute, 40 seconds.

The peloton split into three groups on a

long but narrow section of road opened to the wind when Alaphilippe's Deceuninck Quick Step teammates sped up the pace at the front to close the gap to six breakaway riders.

Thomas' Ineos teammates, working well with Alaphilippe's team, pushed harder in an impressive display of collective strength.

Thomas moved to second place overall, 1:12 behind Alaphilippe, with teammate Egan Bernal in third place, four seconds further back.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/BRITISH OPEN

Talented QB crop aims to shake up SEC hierarchy

By DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

Alabama's dominance ranks among the most impressive dynasties in college football history.

It has also made the Southeastern Conference a bit stale recently as the league's 14 teams gather for their annual media days this week in Hoover, Alabama.

This year, though, a group of talented and experienced quarterbacks could lead to a little more drama in the SEC — maybe. Georgia's Jake Fromm, LSU's Joe Burrow, Florida's Feleipe Franks and Texas A&M's Kellen Mond are major reasons those teams feel they have a realistic chance of knocking Alabama off its title perch.

Still, the Tide will once again be regarded as a heavy favorite to win their fifth league title in six seasons. Coach Nick Saban — now in his 13th season in Tuscaloosa — returns several of his best players, including last year's Heisman Trophy runner-up Tua Tagovailoa, who threw for 3,966 yards, 43 touchdowns and six interceptions.

Alabama blew through last year's regular-season conference schedule by winning all eight games by at least three touchdowns. That success was largely forgotten after Clemson thumped Alabama 44-16 in the national championship game, which will surely motivate the Tide going into 2019.

Georgia is the most obvious candidate to displace the Tide. Last year's Eastern Division champion — which lost 35-28 to Alabama in the SEC title game last season — returns the 6-foot-2 Fromm, who has thrown for more than 5,300 yards in the past two years.

Even some of the league's dark horse candidates have experience at quarterback. South Carolina returns four-year starter Jake Bentley and Tennessee has seasoned junior Jarrett Guarantano. Other schools are relying on transfers: Missouri brought in Clemson's Kelly Bryant, Arkansas added SMU's Ben Hicks and Mississippi State picked up Penn State backup

Tommy Stevens.

Here are other things to watch when the league's programs gather in Hoover this week:

Familiar faces: In a rare show of stability, the SEC didn't have any head coaching changes during the offseason for the first time since 2006. Saban is the league's longest-tenured coach at 13 seasons. The next two in seniority are Auburn's Gus Malzahn and Kentucky's Mark Stoops, who are in year seven.

Year 2 for Mullen, Fisher: Two of the SEC's high-profile coaching hires from a year ago worked out very well. Jimbo Fisher led Texas A&M to a 9-4 season while Dan Mullen jumped to Florida from Mississippi State and led the Gators to 10 wins. Now Fisher and Mullen will be expected to compete for their respective division titles in year two.

Alabama's loaded: Alabama returns an extremely talented team, even by its lofty standards. Tagovailoa gets a lot of the publicity because he's the quarterback, but it's not a one-man show. Among the standouts: Running back Najee Harris, receivers Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs, offensive linemen Jedrick Willis and Alex Leatherwood, defensive end Rackwon Davis and linebackers Dylan Moses and Anfernee Jennings.

Kentucky's rebuild: Kentucky showed patience while allowing Stoops to slowly build the program and it paid off with a 10-win season in 2018. Now the Wildcats will have to rebuild without some of their best players from a year ago, including running back Benny Snell, who ran for 1,449 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Ole Miss eligible for postseason: After a two-year postseason ban because of NCAA rules violations, the Rebels are once again eligible to play in a bowl game. Third-year coach Matt Luke hired two veteran coaches during the offseason — Rich Rodriguez on offense and Mike McNamee on defense — to help rebuild the roster. The two have more than 30 years combined of head coaching experience.



PETER MORRISON/AP

Tiger Woods plays out of a bunker on the 8th hole at Royal Portrush Golf Club during a practice round ahead of the 148th British Open on Sunday, in Portrush, Northern Ireland. The Open begins on Thursday.

Mystery: Majority of field hasn't played Royal Portrush

FROM BACK PAGE

The championship was a sellout 11 months ahead of time. The Royal & Ancient Golf Club decided in April to provide an additional 15,000 tickets for tournament days, and those were snatched up quickly. That means more than 200,000 spectators for the competition days of the 148th Open. And that should come as no surprise. Royal Portrush hosted the Irish Open in 2012 and drew 112,000 fans over four days, a European Tour record.

"I believe big-time sport needs big-time crowds," R&A chief Martin Slumbers said. "We're certainly going to get that."

And what will they see? That's the mystery.

The vast majority of the 156-man field — only 21 players were at the 2012 Irish Open — will be competing on the Harry Colt design for the first time. That included Francesco Molinari, the defending champion who will try to become the first back-to-back winner since Padraig Harrington in 2007-08.

Clarke still had possession of the cinder jug when he returned to Portrush for the Irish Open and was paired with Molinari.

"Being paired with Darren the first round, it was something I still remember," Molinari said. "So I can only imagine what the Open is going to be. It is going to be even bigger, going back to Northern Ireland after so many years. Defending is always special, but defending in a place where the tournament has not been for so long I'm sure is going to be extra special."

There have been a few changes. To make it a large enough stage for the British Open, the R&A with approval from the club changed the routing. Martin Ebert, who consults on a half-dozen links in the Open rotation, took land from the Valley Links to build two new holes, Nos. 7 and 8. The original 17th and 18th holes are now used for the tented village. The nature of the links hasn't changed.

There are fewer bunkers than at most links courses because the contours and cliffs and dunes serve as a reasonable defense. The 16th hole is "Calamity Corner," where a shot over the ravine on the 236-yard par 3 that falls to the right could wind up 50 feet below the green.

Ebert was profuse with his praise of Royal Portrush.

"It's hard to argue that this will be the finest piece of links land which The Open Championship is played," Ebert said in 2014 when the R&A announced a return to Portrush. "No other venue, I don't think, has such pure links undulations throughout its 18 holes."

McDowell is the only one of three major champions from this generation who actually grew up in Portrush, at Rathmore, the club next door. Even with a victory this year in the Dominican Republic, nothing was as satisfying as his 68 in the final round of the Canadian Open to earn a spot in the British Open. He could only dream of Royal Portrush getting another Open. It would have been a nightmare to miss it.

For McIlroy, the pressure might be greater than going for the career Grand Slam at the Masters.

He is the only two-time winner on the PGA Tour this year and is No. 3 in the world. He grew up in Holywood, but Royal Portrush feels like home. McIlroy was 16 when he set the course record of 61 at the North of Ireland Amateur.

Tiger Woods used to go to Ireland to prepare for the British Open. Now it's time to play, and there might be some rust. For the second time this year, Woods goes into a major championship without having played in a month. Since his victory at the Masters, the biggest buzz in golf this year, he has played three tournaments and 10 rounds.

Brooks Koepka will try to extend his amazing run in the majors — two victories and two runner-up finishes in the last four majors. He has never fared particularly well in links golf, which might be all the motivation he needs.

The Americans, meanwhile, will try to go for their first sweep of the majors since 1982, when Craig Stadler won the Masters, Tom Watson won the U.S. and British Opens and Raymond Floyd won the PGA Championship.

Until then, the intrigue is Royal Portrush.

"It's been a long time in the making," McIlroy said. "And obviously, everyone over there is so excited."



AP photos

LSU quarterback Joe Burrow, left, and Georgia's Jake Fromm, right, are two members of a group of talented and experienced quarterbacks that have a number of SEC teams believing they have a realistic chance of knocking Alabama off its title perch.

SPORTS



Whitaker dead at 55
Gold medalist, 4-division champ
struck by car » **Boxing, Page 30**

BRITISH OPEN

THE GREAT UNKNOWN

Return to Portrush
stirs mixture of
mystery and
excitement

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

Graeme McDowell winning the 2010 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach was a source of pride for Northern Ireland. Rory McIlroy winning the U.S. Open at Congressional the following year with a record score was a source of hope.

And then a month later, Darren Clarke became the first Ulsterman in 64 years to raise the silver claret jug.

In a span of six majors, three champions came from a small country in the United Kingdom known for its castles, coastal links and three decades of religious and political violence known as "The Troubles."

What began as a question — "Could the British Open return to Royal Portrush?" — became a drumbeat.

Now, golf's oldest championship is set to return to the Dunluce Links of Royal Portrush for the first time since 1951, the only occasion in 159 years that the British Open was not held in Scotland or England.

"I didn't see it getting big enough or sophisticated enough to host an Open," said David Feherty, who grew up in Northern Ireland and makes his return as part of the NBC Sports broadcast team. "It's just extraordinary what they've done."

The response to Royal Portrush hosting the British Open on July 18-21 for the first time in 68 years has been a combination of excitement and mystery.

SEE MYSTERY ON PAGE 31

Ricky Fowler practices at Royal Portrush Golf Club ahead of the 148th British Open on Sunday. Golf's oldest championship returns to the Dunluce Links of Royal Portrush on Thursday for the first time since 1951.

PETER MORRISON/AP



Re-signing Hall will be tall task for Devils » NHL, Page 26

